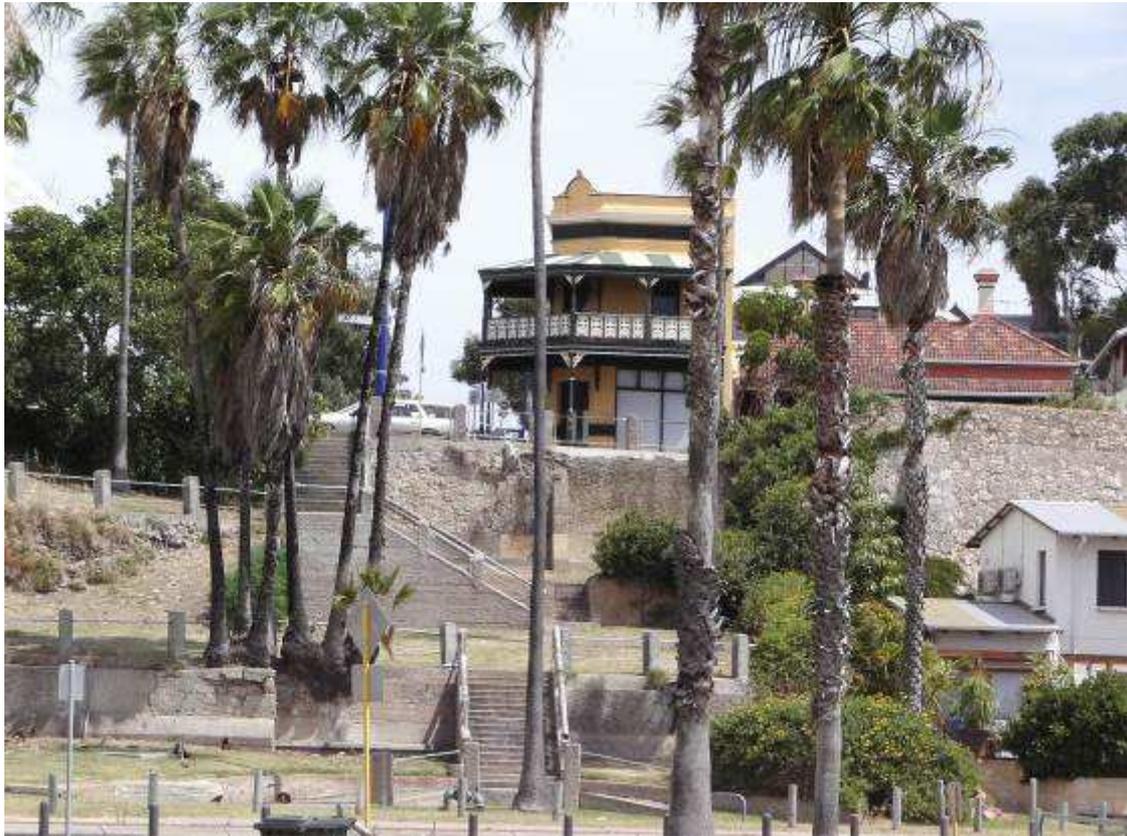


TOWN OF EAST FREMANTLE



ANNUAL REPORT



**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2011**

TOWN OF EAST FREMANTLE

The Municipality of East Fremantle was created in 1897, when it separated from the Town of Fremantle to become an independent local authority. The Town has a population of approximately 6,500 and is 3.2 square kilometres in area. It is bounded to the north and west by the Swan River, across which many properties enjoy expansive views. To the east it shares a common boundary with the City of Melville, to the south and west with the City of Fremantle. It is a few kilometres from the centre of Fremantle and other major retail areas and is well served by public transport.

The Town has a rich history. The local Aboriginal tribe known as Nyungar obtained food and drinking water from the river edges and open grassy areas. The track that linked the fledgling Swan River Colony based in Fremantle to the future city centre of Perth in 1831 is documented traversing along the East Fremantle cliff edge finishing at the river ferry crossing at Preston Point. Early settlement of the area consisted of large farm holdings, however as the colony prospered during the 1890s gold rush the nature of settlement altered dramatically, rapidly changing to a residential area.

The Plympton precinct today consists of charming worker's cottages which were established largely between 1890 and 1910. The annual East Fremantle Festival is held in historic George Street, the main street of Plympton. Riverside was established by the merchant elite of Fremantle and is perched high on the cliffs overlooking the River. Gracious homes of the goldrush era are dotted along the escarpment. Further northwards, the Preston Point area was developed in the 1950s with houses typical of the period also enjoying the expansive views over the river.

The Woodside and Richmond precincts contain many homes dating from 1900–1940. Described as 'sweetness and light' this area is characterised by its fine brick and tile bungalows on generous (quarter acre block or similar) sites with mature garden settings.

The Town of East Fremantle has strongly resisted the push for infill development and encouraged the retention of the many heritage homes, gardens and streetscapes in the municipality. Whilst pressure from various sources to increase densities may ultimately prevail, in East Fremantle the community and families currently enjoy the standard of amenity of their forebears, with space for children to play and a sense of history and community unparalleled elsewhere.

The Town At A Glance

THE TOWN AT A GLANCE

Established as a municipality:	2 April 1897
Population:	6697 (2006 Bureau of Statistics)
Number of dwellings:	3,065
Number of rate assessments:	3,312
Area:	3.2km ²
Area of parks & gardens:	65ha
Location:	25km from Perth GPO
Length of roads:	40km
Annual Operating Expenditure (actual):	\$ 7,121,524
Rate revenue (actual):	\$ 5,107,576
Employees:	34
Principal Officers	
Chief Executive Officer	Stuart Wearne
Executive Manager Finance & Admin	John Roberts
Manager Planning Services	Jamie Douglas
Environmental Health Officer	Shelley Cocks
Acting Operations Manager	Ken Dyer
Office location:	135 Canning Highway East Fremantle
Telephone:	(08) 9339 9339
Facsimile:	(08) 9339 3399
Email:	admin@eastfremantle.wa.gov.au
Office Hours:	8.30am-5.00pm Monday-Friday

Annual Report 2010/2011

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APPENDIX I

Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2011

Mayor & Councillors

Mayor & Councillors (as at 30 June 2010)

Mayor:

2007-2011

Mayor Alan Ferris
1 Polo Way
East Fremantle WA 6158
mayor.ferris@eastfremantle.wa.gov.au
9339 0595

Councillors:

Plympton Ward

2009-2011

Cr Siân Martin
16 Sewell Street
East Fremantle WA 6158
cr.martin@eastfremantle.wa.gov.au
9339 3950

2009-2013

Cr Rob Lilleyman
4 Polo Way
East Fremantle WA 6158
cr.lilleyman@eastfremantle.wa.gov.au
9339 7846

Woodside Ward

2007-2011

Cr Maria Rico
11 Petra Street
East Fremantle WA 6158
9339 4413

2009-2013

Cr Dean Nardi
120 Marmion Street
East Fremantle WA 6158
cr.nardi@eastfremantle.wa.gov.au
9339 5632

Richmond Ward

2007-2011

Cr Cliff Collinson
48 King Street
East Fremantle WA 6158
9339 6452

2009-2013

Cr Richard Olson
4/46 Alexandra Road
East Fremantle WA 6158
cr.olson@eastfremantle.wa.gov.au
9339 6681

Preston Point Ward

2007-2011

Cr Barry de Jong (**Deputy Mayor**)
4 Chauncy Street
East Fremantle WA 6158
cr.dejong@eastfremantle.wa.gov.au
9438 1516

2009-2013

Cr Alex Wilson
46 Locke Crescent
East Fremantle WA 6158
cr.wilson@eastfremantle.wa.gov.au
9339 1156

Mayor's Report

Alan Ferris, Mayor

The 2010/11 financial year has been another successful year for the Town with work continuing on a number of key projects which will directly improve the amenity and vitality of the Town.

Projects such as the Town Centre gathered momentum through the release of draft guidelines for the redevelopment of the Town Centre. These draft guidelines have been developed with the community with Community Reference Groups being set up to provide direct input. Some 55 residents and business owners took part in the CRG workshops and provided valuable feedback to this important project.

The next stage of this project will see a public forum being held to discuss the initial draft and to see feedback from the community which will be used to finalise the draft. This work and the subsequent adoption of a local planning policy for the Town Centre will provide developers with a clear vision for the type of development the Town aspires to.

It is hoped that this policy will trigger the redevelopment of the Silas Street shopping area into a modern, vibrant and attractive area where our residents can shop, work and recreate.

This financial year also saw the Council reconfirm its commitment to the East Fremantle Oval Redevelopment Project. Together with the Department of Sport and Recreation and the WA Football Commission the Town has committed funding for the development of a business case for the project.

This project, overseen by a steering committee will review the masterplan document completed in 2007 and build a detailed business case which will be used to secure the funding necessary for the development. This is a very important project for the Town and a great opportunity to

transform an underperforming asset into an exciting community hub.

Amalgamation remains on the State Government agenda and continues to threaten the independence of the Town. Clearly the State Government remains committed to forcing a reduction in the number of metropolitan Councils to "achieve greater efficiencies". Council remains opposed to forced amalgamations and will continue to identify ways to partner with other councils and key stakeholders in delivering services to our community.

Earlier this year I hosted a forum for our sporting and community groups to thank them for their contribution to the community and also to get a better understanding of their needs. Sporting and community group facilities are very important community assets and they continue to play an integral role in the social fabric of the Town.

As a community it is important that we understand the needs of each of the organisations and plan accordingly so that we can continue to offer high quality facilities for the all residents within the Town.

On behalf of the Town I would like to thank the committees and club members for their hard work and contribution they make in providing opportunities for the community to enjoy.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors for their commitment and support during this year. Councillors put in a significant amount of time and energy to ensure that the Town continues to move forward and that we improve the amenity and lifestyle for the long term benefit of the Town.

To the CEO Mr Stuart Wearne and his assistant Ms Janine May thank you for your support, dedication and commitment to our Town. I would also like to recognise the work the various components of the Council

Mayor's Report

including the works team, John Roberts and the finance and administration teams, the health and community services team led by Shelley Cocks and our hard working town planning team.

In closing I am extremely proud and privileged to be Mayor of this great Town. I look forward to updating you in the coming year with more details on the significant projects underway.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Stuart Wearne, Chief Executive Officer

INTRODUCTION

The 2009-2010 financial year saw many achievements by Council for the benefit of the Town.

Council officers and elected members continued to provide good governance and improved Council services. Much was accomplished during the year and I am proud of the achievements of the Town's staff and elected members for this period.

At officer level, the more noteworthy outcomes are reflected in the reports from the Departmental heads, which I commend to you.

Meanwhile, the following were the key strategic and operational issues dealt with by the Town.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

This refers to the agenda, and ongoing processes, which have been initiated by the Minister for Local Government, Mr Castrilli, to "reform" local government in Western Australia.

The Minister's key objective is to significantly reduce the number of local governments in Western Australia.

As the outcome of the Minister's program, and as is certainly the Minister's and the Premier's personal wish, could well be that the Town ceases to exist, it is clearly the most critical issue facing the Town.

In my report for the 2009-10 financial year I gave a detailed account of the background of this "reform" program, which the Minister had initiated in February 2009.

By June 30 2010 the situation was as follows:

(i) After a detailed and time consuming assessment and review process, which entailed a large volume of reporting by the

CEO to the Minister or his Department, it had been concluded:

- (a) There was no discernable logical reason for East Fremantle to amalgamate. It had been demonstrated the Town was *financially* sustainable in the long term, having twice been assessed as such by independent and highly respected financial consultants. It was also concluded the Town was *socially* sustainable and whilst there were *environmental* sustainability issues, these would exist regardless of any local government boundary configuration and equally applied to the State and Federal government domains.
- (b) There was no *obvious* benefit to the East Fremantle community for East Fremantle to amalgamate, which was reinforced by the fact the overwhelming majority of residents did not wish to amalgamate.
- (c) There *would* be a benefit to another local government to "take over" East Fremantle, if the objective was to divert the use of some of the rate income away from the East Fremantle community. Because East Fremantle is almost entirely residential and almost fully developed, this would be a significant attraction. However this in itself would obviously be a disbenefit to the East Fremantle community. Nevertheless East Fremantle remains a "high valuation/high value" prize in an acquisition environment.
- (d) With respect to financial sustainability measures, the Town:
 - was on the "minimum grant"
 - had a debt servicing ratio below 3% (the State local government average is 5.21%).

Chief Executive Officer's Report

- raised revenue per employee which is on a par with other local governments in the region.
- whilst not “needing” a development based solution for its long term financial sustainability, expected:
 - (i) Leeuwin Barracks will eventually be sold, giving rise to significant development opportunities and financial benefits for the Town (the property of course currently generating no rate income)
 - (ii) similar, if somewhat less significant outcomes would flow from the inevitable redevelopment of the Town Centre.

One of the key conclusions with respect to the Town's financial sustainability was that the Town was *not* reliant on the relatively small Federal and State government grants which it received and could in fact “manage” without them, inequitable as that might be, if this was what it would take to avoid an unfair forced amalgamation.

- (e) With respect to social sustainability, there was a long standing and stable community of interest with the prevailing community view long being one of opposition to amalgamation.

There were no significant social problems in the community – for example there was low unemployment, relatively low crime rates and no significant housing issues. The Town did not generate a high demand on State and Federal Government services. In fact (partly through Church based providers, who pay no rates) the Town houses more than its share, on a per capita basis, of

aged, disabled and mental health care services. In fact, the Council exported its Home & Community Care services to surrounding local government areas.

- (ii) Council had been pressured, by the Minister and his Department to form a “Regional Transition Group” (RTG) with the City of Fremantle.

In short, the RTG concept represented a “transitional” process and structure which was designed to achieve an amalgamation outcome, for local governments like East Fremantle whom the Minister was targeting, by 2013.

- (iii) Elected members declined to support forming a RTG with the City of Fremantle, particularly on the grounds that the East Fremantle community had made it clear they didn't wish to amalgamate under *any* circumstances.
- (iv) The response to this position (and to other local governments in the same category also designated as uncooperative) from the Minister's Local Government Reform Steering Committee, was given in a report which contained the implied suggestion that as a result of this lack of cooperation, forced amalgamations would be necessary.

Thus the first two recommendations were:

1. *That the Minister note that the voluntary reform process has not yielded the scale of reform required to deliver meaningful benefits to the State.*
2. *That the Minister consider options for targeted Government intervention, including through proposals to the Local Government Advisory Board for major boundary adjustments, and/or legislation to trigger reform activity in critical areas for reform including, but not limited to, the following*

Chief Executive Officer's Report

areas..."(with the "Fremantle area" then being specifically mentioned).

One of the suggestions for "facilitating the implementation of Recommendation 2" was to remove the poll provisions from the Local Government Act. These are the provisions which, subject to strict and rather onerous criteria being met (for example sufficient members of electors voting, failing which the Minister is unimpeded from proceeding with an amalgamation) give the local community a power of veto as to whether a local government should be amalgamated or not.

- (v) On 25 June 2010 the Minister announced the establishment of a committee which was to drive his reform agenda, the Local Government Reform Implementation Committee.
- (vi) Thus as the previous financial year came to a close, considerable uncertainty abounded with regard to the Government's next move.
- (vii) In September 2010, the Chief Executive Officer tabled the Local Government Reform Steering Committee Report, which had been produced in May 2010 however only recently released, and commented on the report as follows:

"The Report is very disappointing.

The Minister claimed it "clearly sets out the compelling case for reform" and "provides a new benchmark of research for local government reform in Australia". However, in the CEO's view, it does neither.

The report is largely bereft of any references to research, or other objective evidence, to justify its "reform" proposals, and, except for the regional collaborative group option allowed for a limited number of rural local governments, essentially does not consider any other reform model other than the simplistic amalgamation based approach

promoted by the Minister. For that reason, the Local Government Reform Steering Committee's objectivity must be questioned, although it is acknowledged that, notwithstanding the handpicked nature of the Committee, the more contentious recommendations which are referred to in this comment, were not unanimous Committee recommendations. The Report is, nevertheless, often subjective, predictable and reads largely as political rhetoric. It is noted a number of recommendations in the report are simply a rehash of recommendations from the 2006 Local Government Advisory Board report, which the former government had dismissed as inadequate.

In short, the Report simply reflects the Minister's very narrow concept of "reform", which is almost entirely limited to having fewer and bigger local governments – regardless of the extensive academic research which indicates this approach is not the panacea for local government sustainability which its proponents constantly tout it to be. If it were, why are so many of the local governments in other states, which resulted from large scale amalgamations in those States, in financial crisis?

Because the local government sector is aware of this fact, it has, overwhelmingly, not embraced the Minister's amalgamation mantra and as a result very few local governments have resolved to amalgamate, despite the Minister's intensive efforts over the last 18 months to bring about widescale amalgamations in the State.

What has the Minister's response been? Rather than accept responsibility for a badly managed "reform" process, the Minister accuses the local government sector generally, of being uncooperative and not offering the level of support he requires.

The Minister states that he provided the local government sector with the opportunity for "industry led reform" however "the sector failed to produce the results which I believe the majority of stakeholders know is essential".

Thus, in the report, the Town of East Fremantle, along with numerous other local

Chief Executive Officer's Report

governments, is categorised as "Not Participating in Reform".

This is untrue.

The Town of East Fremantle is a strong supporter of local government reform however does not believe, based on extensive research and analysis, that the Minister's simplistic "big is better" model, under which the Town of East Fremantle would cease to exist, is the optimal approach generally, and in the Town's case, has any justification whatsoever.

The Department of Local Government has concluded the Town is financially viable. This was backed up by two independent expert studies of the Town's financial situation each of which found that the Town's finances were not only strong, but were improving. Yet the Town is not complacent and in partnership with other local governments in the region, for example through a library sharing arrangement with the City of Fremantle and other projects through the South West Group and the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council, continues to be involved in a number of resource sharing and shared services initiatives designed to further improve financial efficiencies and thus further enhance the Town's financial sustainability.

In other words "not participating in reform" should be read as "not supporting the Minister's amalgamation based model of reform".

It is not clear what "stakeholders" the Minister is referring to in his statement as referred to above, however in the Town's view, the most important stakeholders are East Fremantle residents and ratepayers.

Thus, in its research, prior to submitting its response to the Minister, the Town also sought the views of its community. In the biggest poll of its type in the metropolitan area, if not the State, involving every elector of the Town, the community overwhelmingly rejected amalgamation, with either Fremantle or Melville.

It is highly regrettable there is not a single word in the report about factoring in the wishes of local communities (which local governments are obviously meant to be serving) other than the shameful suggestion that one option needing consideration is for the poll provisions of the Local Government Act, the provisions which give local communities a say on this issue (albeit needing to meet certain qualifying criteria to do so) be removed. Another suggestion is legislating forced amalgamations, which has the same effect of denying local communities a say in the matter.

If the Minister is confident "the majority of stakeholders" support his amalgamation based approach to reform, what does he have to fear from a poll of electors?

Despite the lack of any justification for amalgamation in the Town's case, including the lack of any business case for amalgamation and despite the strong wishes of the East Fremantle community, the Minister's endorsement of the report indicates the Town remains on the Minister's hit list for a forced takeover by the City of Fremantle. The recommendation describes this as a "targeted Government intervention".

It needs to be made clear that the City of Fremantle is not seeking this and in fact their own consultant concluded, with respect to an amalgamation with East Fremantle, "there is little benefit to the Fremantle community in a merger scenario".

Nevertheless the City of Fremantle is described in the Report as "support reform but have no partner/s" and "willing to reform, but partners remain unresolved".

The above categorisation is understood to be based on the City of Fremantle agreement to the Minister's proposal to form a Regional Transition Group with the Town of East Fremantle.

However the City of Fremantle's reasons for indicating agreement to a Regional Transition Group involved broader considerations, rather than any view that a merger with East Fremantle would be to their benefit.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

The Town chose to not engage in the Regional Transition Group process, because:

- (i) the process was intended as a vehicle (ie "transition") to amalgamation with the City of Fremantle, and like the City of Fremantle, the Town could also see no justification for, or benefit from, an amalgamation and*
- (ii) given amalgamation was the ultimate objective of the Regional Transition Group process, to engage in the process would be to flout the clearly expressed wishes of the East Fremantle community.*

Why then does the Minister persist? The answer is simple: an amalgamation would help achieve his, and the Premier's, stated target of abolishing at least 42 local governments in the State. Given East Fremantle's size, it is seen as an easy target.

Long before the Council made its reform submission to the Minister and long before there was an assessment of that submission, the Premier publicly stated at a Fremantle Chamber of Commerce function that East Fremantle should cease to exist. This and other statements by the Premier, such as his support, at the same time, for the even smaller Shire of Peppermint Grove (which is in his electorate) remaining independent, betrayed the political nature of the government's so called objective reform process.

Any move away from the principle of voluntary reform and towards forcing amalgamations on local communities, against the wishes of those local communities, would break an earlier undertaking by the government. Yet the Minister has flagged this is his intention.

It is a very regrettable development and the CEO believes the Minister should be strongly urged to reconsider his position and commence working with the local government sector and the communities they represent, in a cooperative relationship, as befits the supportive role he is meant to be carrying out as Minister for Local Government, rather than treating the State's local governments as the opposition, simply because the majority do not support the Minister's narrow concept of reform."

In December 2010 the Council received advice from the Minister which indicated he was considering "long term strategic measures" which he believed were necessary for those local governments "not currently engaged in meaningful structural reform". Other correspondence from the Minister at this time clearly indicated the Minister's desire for the Town to amalgamate with the City of Fremantle.

- (viii) In February 2011 the CEO reported to Council on a new reform initiative by the Minister – the Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework.*

In short, the CEO advised this framework involved a significant amount of research, assessment and consultations and gave rise to significant financial, human resource and workload issues.

The CEO noted the Department had acknowledged this and proposed to fund consultancies and temporary staff appointments to assist local governments to implement the requirements which were proposed to become a legislative requirement in the next quarter.

However in response to a query the CEO had been advised that the Minister had stipulated that only local governments which had signed up to the Minister's amalgamation based reform program, would be eligible for funding.

The CEO had responded that he had considered it hypocritical in the extreme that a local government would be denied funding to help implement an initiative largely designed (it was claimed) to help local governments better reflect community aspirations, when, as a result of reflecting community aspirations in relation to the Minister's amalgamation agenda, it would now be financially penalised in this way.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

(ix) Between February and June 2011 there was something of a hiatus as the Minister struggled to obtain any traction with his reform program.

Despite the Minister's claims that the general public were clamouring for change, not to mention the local government sector itself, it was becoming increasingly obvious there was little appetite by the public or in the industry for the Minister's obsession with reducing the number of local governments in WA, regardless, in individual cases, of any perceived need and particularly regardless of any views of local communities.

During this time there was an informed view that it is only the opposition of the Nationals to forced amalgamations which prevented the Minister and Premier from moving down that path.

Accordingly it was suggested forced amalgamations would be quickly on the agenda if the Liberal Party secures government in its own right.

In the CEO's view such an outcome would be a serious mistake.

The CEO called upon the Minister, both via correspondence and at public meetings, to recognise that his one-size-fits-all, "bigger is better", amalgamation based model of local government reform was not only a very limited and simplistic approach, but also that a range of other options, better options in most cases, were available.

This had been the conclusion of WALGA's, earlier and very comprehensive Systemic Sustainability Study (SSS), which led to a reform model which enjoyed the almost unanimous support of the local government sector, however was regrettably ditched by the Minister, without consultation and despite

his initial expressions of support, and replaced by his own model of reform.

The point was also made that if the panacea for local government sustainability is fewer and bigger local governments, why were so many large local governments in other States, which resulted from large scale amalgamation in those States, in significant financial difficulties?

The Minister stated that he had provided the local government sector with the opportunity for "industry led reform" however "the sector failed to produce the results which I believe the majority of stakeholders know is essential".

It is not clear what "stakeholders" the Minister was referring to, however in the Town's view, the most important stakeholders are East Fremantle residents and ratepayers and they had strongly indicated their opposition to amalgamation.

The hiatus came to an end on 24 June 2011 when the CEO was invited to attend a meeting attended by the Premier and Minister at which a public announcement on the government's new tack, with respect to local government reform, was made.

The CEO subsequently reported to elected members as follows:

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to advise elected members of a "Review of Perth Metropolitan Boundaries and Governance Models" which was announced by the Minister for Local Government and the Premier, on 24 June 2011.

BACKGROUND

Elected members are aware, from numerous previous reports and discussion of the Minister's "Local Government Reform" process which he initiated in February 2009.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Without going through the whole chronology – both the Minister and Premier repeatedly indicated that the core objective was to reduce the number of elected governments in Western Australia. The stated primary basis of their position was concerns about the economic viability of a number of local governments (with particular reference made to the number of small rural councils) and concerns that the Commonwealth was, in many cases, declining to make grants to WA local governments, on the basis that they were too small.

With respect to the first issue, previous reviews had suggested a number of (generally very small) rural local governments may not be economically viable.

With respect to the second claim, the CEO is unaware of any evidence being put before the sector on this issue. Certainly the Federal Government has made no public statement in that regard.

Initially the stated objective of the Minister and Premier was to reduce the number of local governments in mainland (ie excluding Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands) WA from 139 to at least less than 100, ie at a minimum, a reduction of 40.

Later however it became clear, from correspondence from the Minister, that he had a much larger number of reductions in mind.

In September 2010 the Minister wrote: "Only 31 local governments of the 139 are what I consider to be sustainable in the long term."

This suggested the Minister wished to see the end of 108 of the State's 139 mainland local governments.

Yet the outcome, despite the Minister's relentless efforts, has, to date been:

- No metropolitan mergers
- 1 merger in the country

The country merger is the amalgamation between the City of Geraldton-Greenough and the Shire of Mullewa to form the City of Greater Geraldton, which occurred today.

In short, to 1 July 2011, the number of mainland local governments has only reduced from 139 to 138 and this may remain the case.

Thus, by the Minister and Premier's own key measure of success, the Minister's "reform" process must be seen as having failed to date – both in terms of the degree to which it has been embraced by the local government sector and in terms of its outcomes.

Prior to the recent announcement, the status quo with respect to local government reform was that the model of Regional Transitional Groups and Regional Collaborative Groups was continuing and the Minister had recently legislated in terms of a raft of strategic planning requirements for local government, under the heading "new Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework".

Despite these initiatives it was widely recognised that the Minister, who remains committed to significant reductions of local governments in WA yet could not convince the sector of the need for voluntary amalgamation and yet knew he could not achieve forced amalgamations when this was opposed by the National Party, might look to another, more feasible approach to achieve amalgamations, including processes involving the metropolitan area only.

COMMENT

The rationale for the review (provided by the Minister and Premier) was essentially that:

- (i) Perth's boundaries were unchanged since the 1900's (technically incorrect) and yet there had been a number of impacts (eg economic, environmental, population, housing etc) since then. In the light of those impacts more desirable boundaries may be identified.
- (ii) 70% of WA's population lives in Perth, ie it was logical to review boundaries which affected the greater number of people.
- (iii) similarly, new development and population pressures was greatest in Perth
- (iv) WA was part of Asia and needed to be more competitive and local government needed to be part of that process.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

- (v) there were a huge number of mining resource projects under way or waiting in the wings.
- (vi) there had been an "inadequate response" to the "earlier review", such that no "coherent view" had been produced.

The most obvious and immediate queries the above responses give rise to are:

- (i) if the local government make up of Perth was such a significant issue in terms of WA's global competitiveness, why had this review only been thought of at this time?
- (ii) where is the evidence that Perth's metropolitan local government structure is hindering the economic prosperity and sustainability of WA as the Minister and Premier suggests?
- (iii) particularly given the massive number of mining projects which the Premier referred to, obviously all in regional WA, why were regional local governments being excluded from such a review?
- (iv) what happened to the concern about the sustainability of many rural local governments?
- (v) if the supposedly "lost" Commonwealth grants was a genuine issue, why exclude regional WA, which contains almost 80% of WA's 141 local governments?

The Minister was in fact asked why the country was excluded however he essentially ignored the question and just snapped "the metropolitan area is now our priority".

The Premier stressed the individual credentials of the members of the independent panel and pointed to the objectivity and "arms length from government" nature of the process.

At the same time he stated it was clearly expected the report would recommend a "substantial reduction in the number of metropolitan local governments", envisaging only 15-20 metropolitan local governments (of the current 30 including Serpentine-Jarrahdale) remaining.

At the time the Terms of Reference were not available, however these have now been

received (see Attachments A & B) and the fourth dot point clearly indicates a pre-determined position on the number of metropolitan local governments.

The fourth dot point reads:

"Identify new local government boundaries and a resultant reduction in the overall number of local governments to better meet the needs of the community."

It is also obvious the fourth dot point significantly pre-empts the third and fifth dot points which suggest the Panel will independently conclude on this "improved" and "effective" local government structures.

The fourth dot point suggests a pre-determined position (or directive to the Panel) that a reduced number of local governments would "better meet the needs of the community".

It was noteworthy that, despite the review, the Minister wishes all of the other "reform" initiatives and requirements, including the considerable work the newly prescribed Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework gives rise to, to continue.

In other words, for the Town to expend considerable resources on long term strategic planning under one reform agenda when under another reform agenda the plan is for the Town to cease to exist!

The Premier also advised that whilst he maintained the commitment to no forced amalgamations in this term of government, "no guarantee" could be given with respect to the next government (should his government be returned), particularly in the case of local governments which had been identified as non cooperative.

WALGA

Through a media statement (see Attachment C), WALGA President Troy Pickard quickly and enthusiastically welcomed the review yet:

- (i) did so with no consultation with their members, on the basis that it was consistent with WALGA's earlier decision (see below).

Chief Executive Officer's Report

(ii) *did so despite WALGA not having been consulted about the proposal beforehand notwithstanding WALGA is included on one of the two advisory groups. (WALGA in fact only found out about the announcement because Mr Pickard was written to as Mayor of Joondalup.)*

(iii) *did so despite the limited nature of the review being at odds with the statewide review which WALGA had, in February this year, called for.*

WALGA's decision at that time was as follows:

"That the State Government be encouraged to:

- 1. Declare its vision for the local government sector;*
- 2. Conduct a state-wide governance review based around the recognition of local governments as metropolitan, regional or rural;*
- 3. Establish policies, processes and resources for local government reform based on the outcomes of the review; and*
- 4. Engage with the local government sector in the suggested review process."*

Council had no issue with those resolutions.

However, despite citing the WALGA decision in his attempted justification of the review, the Minister's announcement:

- Contains no vision (it just says the review will provide this);*
- Does not involve a state wide review but is confined to the metropolitan area only ie an area made up of economically viable and relatively large local governments when compared with the situation of many small and economically unviable country local governments, which had been the focus of his earlier review.*

In that regard, it is questionable, in the Chief Executive Officer's view, for Mr Pickard to attempt to

reconcile the difference by claiming the review "should be expected to provide insights and learning that may then assist the process being extended to regional centres and remote areas".

Neither the Minister nor the Premier made the slightest suggestion of this.

It should be noted in addition to (ii) above the WALGA decision had specifically included:

"Engage with the local government sector in the suggested review process."

and this did not occur.

(iv) *most striking is what Mr Pickard failed to comment on, which was that the Terms of Reference and the Premier's comments indicate that in terms of at least smaller and no doubt medium sized metropolitan local governments, the review appears simply a means to a predetermined end.*

If not, why the fourth term of reference, which simply repeats one of the Minister's stated goals with respect to the original reform process.

In Mr Pickard's defence:

- he did describe the review as a "welcome start", indicates he expected more.*
- he does note that whilst the review is limited to the metropolitan area, this does at least accord with part of WALGA's call for a review which recognises there are different issues pertaining to metropolitan, regional and small rural local governments.*

Committee for Perth

The Committee for Perth has, predictably, applauded the announcement.

This organisation, established in 2006, is a pro business group which claims it wishes to promote change which improves the "cultural

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diversity, economic prosperity, sustainability and amenity of Perth”.

It is anti regulation, pro amalgamation and pro development, being for example a strong proponent of the Development Assessment Panels which commence today.

It is possibly instructive to note the Committee advises “The work of the Committee for Perth is fully funded by our members with Foundation Members being our greatest contributors and we acknowledge: Alcoa, ANZ, Bankwest, BHP Billiton, Ernst & Young, Freehills, Rio Tinto, The West Australian, Wesfarmers, WesTrac and Woodside.”

Their media statement (attached as D) was issued so quickly after the Minister's announcement it is assumed they had an advance copy of the announcement.

Interestingly much of their media statement mirrored the Premier's words (or vice versa).

CONCLUSION

Whatever the view of Council, this is just another development which Council will have very little real input into.

It smacks of a desperate move by the Minister to retain his portfolio and reputation in the face of a significantly mismanaged “reform program”.

The lack of any reference to country local governments strongly suggests the exercise is largely political, based on the simple reality that the government needs to support of the anti amalgamation Nationals to stay in government.

With no personal disrespect is intended towards the selected independent panel (and the government is to be congratulated for adopting this approach as opposed to a Minister directed Departmental based approach), the full independence of the process must be questioned when the Terms of Reference and the Premier's comments indicate a significant pre-determined outcome.

It is important that WALGA properly reflects its members' views on this issue. The WALGA President immediate and enthusiastic embracing of the review, despite the significant issues which its origins and Terms of Reference give rise to, is of concern.

As the second smallest metropolitan local government, there is no question that the Minister and Premier would see this review as a means of achieving their previously stated wish for the Town to be abolished.

Meanwhile, whilst the ultimate outcome remains to be seen, what is undoubted is that the Town, through its officers, will be obliged to prepare more reports; carry out more research, compile and submit more information; attend more meetings and all of which will be at the expense of attending to the Town's assessed priorities.

At 30 June 2011 this was the newly announced situation.

Critical to the issue of Local Government reform, notwithstanding the Minister's apparent refusal to acknowledge the connection, presumably because, inherently, it involves costs for the State, is the issue of Financial Reform in Local Government.

FINANCIAL REFORM IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

I have written on this matter in previous annual reports. It is logical for this issue to be raised following the discussion on amalgamation because it is a far more critical issue for the future of local government, than the number or size of local governments in the State. In fact it is extraordinary it is an issue which the Minister has ignored in his “reform” program.

In my previous comments I referred to the findings of the earlier Federal “Fair Share” inquiry into local government financing and cost shifting, which concluded there was an Australia wide financial sustainability crisis in the local government sector and recommended

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significant improvements in regard to local government financing.

The "Fair Share" Inquiry had found the infrastructure backlog alone to be a time bomb for local governments across Australia.

In financial terms, the backlog of unmet but essential local government infrastructure works was estimated to be \$14.5 billion nationally, of which an estimated \$1.75 billion involved Western Australia.

Yet, I advised in my last report that as at 30 June 2010, change had been very slow to occur.

In short, much more needs to be achieved with respect to reforming the funding of local government.

No amount of State Government imposed amalgamations will change the fact that if local governments, of any size, are underfunded for the tasks that the State and Commonwealth governments expect them to carry out, then they will not be able to satisfactorily carry out those tasks.

It is critical to note the following:

- Growth in demand for local government services has increased rapidly during the past decade, corresponding to substantial growth in the national economy. In addition, local government is called upon to meet new challenges, such as the impact of population ageing and associated health care needs, disease and obesity, crime and community safety, environmental protection and climate change. To respond adequately, local government revenues must increase in a way that truly reflects the cost of delivering local government services and community infrastructure.
- In addition to the increasing community demand for services, local government must devote a growing level of its resources to capital formation and depreciation liabilities. The "Fair Share" report referred

to above found that, in general terms, local government is struggling to meet community demand for more intensive 'human services to the people', whilst maintaining its increasingly ageing local community assets. The backlog is now estimated to be about \$16 billion nationally.

- In addition cost shifting by the Commonwealth and State governments was found to have a negative impact on councils of between \$500 million and \$1.1 billion annually. The effects of years of cost shifting to local government from other levels of government (mainly state government), for which the sector remains uncompensated, have magnified over recent years, and present as a genuine threat to the ongoing financial sustainability of the sector. This is because other levels of government continue, whether indirectly or directly, to assign additional responsibilities to councils. These include increased emergency and disaster management, environmental programs, community education, business development, management of certain land and the transfer of roads. Compulsory amalgamations in some jurisdictions over recent years, coupled with state-prescribed responsibilities, have also increased opportunities to cost shift onto the local government sector.
- Despite this dramatic increase in Council responsibilities, property rates generally continued to remain the principal source of revenue. Nationally, rates in local government have for many years increased by a lesser amount than Commonwealth taxation revenue. Despite this increase in Commonwealth taxation and Commonwealth grants to the States, Federal and State grants to local government have, in relative terms, declined whilst, as indicated, services shifted to local government have increased.
- As a result of the abovementioned pressures, local government faces the choice of reducing services, ignoring its deteriorating physical infrastructure and/or

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increasing its already well-utilised revenue base. Each of these options presents social, environmental and political costs.

- Given the demands upon local government and its limited capacity to raise further additional own-source revenue, adequate revenue growth for general purposes can only be achieved through an increase in the quantum of intergovernmental financial transfers.

In short Council believes structural reforms to Commonwealth-local government financial relations must be implemented to secure financially sustainable local government. Such reforms should encompass:

- Local government to receive a guaranteed real terms share of Commonwealth tax revenues, equivalent to a minimum of 1% of Commonwealth general taxation revenue and paid directly by the Commonwealth.
- Increased Financial Assistance Grants and an improved growth/escalation methodology
- Permanent funding for Roads to Recovery
- Resurrection of the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program
- Prevention of further cost and responsibility shifting onto local government by other levels of government, particularly the states and territories
- Progress on constitutional reform.

In the foreseeable future, the ability of local government to meet the legitimate aspirations of its communities will significantly depend on how Federal and State Governments respond to the issues referred to above.

ROYAL GEORGE HOTEL RESTORATION

This matter is the responsibility of the National Trust, as the owners of the building.

By way of background, this building has been owned by the National Trust for almost seven years, after the building was gifted to the Trust

by the State Government in January 2005, for "Heritage Purposes", after the Trust lobbied for this to occur.

A development application was not received until over 4 years later, in May 2009.

Unfortunately, between June 2009 and June 2010 Council officers were severely obstructed in dealing with the application due to a number of issues which were completely at the behest of the applicant (architect Michael Dryka) and/or the owner (National Trust) and/or the "preferred developers" appointed by the Trust – Andrew Cobb and Terrence McGee.

These issues included:

- insufficient plans;
- inadequate advice on proposed uses;
- constantly changing information with respect to the above;
- lack of a Parking & Traffic Study which was required under the Town Planning Scheme;
- protracted obstruction, by the National Trust, of the Heritage Council's ability to assess the proposal, which is the normal process with all heritage listed buildings and considered a fundamental requirement in the case of a State listed building, which the Royal George is.

In the CEO's view the National Trust dealt with this matter in an appalling manner and paid lip service to the supported "partnership" which it previously deemed to have with the Council, ever since the building was gifted in the Trust by the government.

Ultimately, due to the National Trust's refusal to let the Heritage Council assess the proposal, the CEO commissioned renowned heritage architect Phillip Griffiths to do so. This had the stated support of the National Trust.

However, despite that support, whilst the National Trust were well aware Mr Griffith's advice was about to be received, they (or the applicant) initiated an appeal to the State

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Administrative Tribunal (SAT) in June 2010 on the grounds of a "deemed refusal".

The first SAT hearing occurred in June 2010. The last SAT hearing occurred in June 2011.

This year long process cost ratepayers approximately \$100,000, not including the significant cost of the CEO's and Manager Planning Services' time.

This was highly regrettable as the SAT hearings completely vindicated Council's position (in particular Council ultimately received the proper plans it had sought in the first place and Council's position on the parking shortfall was accepted).

In the CEO's view the entire saga reflected very badly on the National Trust and called into question the Trust's administration, and in particular the management of its large property portfolio.

Nevertheless, at 30 June 2011 the National Trust had obtained a planning approval and Council looked forward to the restoration and development proceeding.

TOWN CENTRE

Together with many residents, Council has long desired an improved Town Centre to be developed on the site of the existing ageing East Fremantle Shopping Centre, with the best possible public benefit. However Council has always been limited with respect to its influence on achieving this goal as none of the area involved is Council land.

In recent times, previous proposals had not come to fruition, in part due to economic circumstances and in part due to a protracted legal dispute between the major landholder (Russell Quinn) and the owners of the supermarket, over parking.

In June/July 2010 further discussions took place with Mr Quinn with respect to a new development application being received.

In August 2010 the Chief Executive Officer re-recruited Malcolm Mackay, a prominent urban planner, whom the CEO had previously engaged in relation to advice both on the Town Centre and George Street.

Mr Mackay was asked to conduct a workshop to elicit the preliminary views of elected members with respect to parameters and other requirements which elected members wished to be reflected in a concept plan, to be produced by Mr Mackay, as one of a number of envisaged planning tools to help guide any proposed development.

This appointment not only resulted in a concept plan but also set in train a planning and consultation process which was later to involve the recruitment by the CEO of a further consultant, Warren Giddens, to carry out a public consultation process with respect to the development of a Draft Local Planning Policy – Town Centre Redevelopment Guidelines.

Meanwhile a number of discussions took place with Mr Quinn and his architect, John Colliere, regarding a proposed development for the shopping centre, which took into account Council's developing planning guidelines.

On 30 June 2011 a planning application was received from Mr Quinn, the date being significant because after that date the matter would need to have been dealt with under the State Government's newly introduced Development Assessment Panel process, which would effectively have largely taken the decision making out of Council's hands.

Mr Quinn was to be congratulated for his decision in that regard.

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GEORGE STREET UNDERPASS MURAL

In May 2011, work commenced on the George Street underpass mural with the aim of transforming this space into a more appealing area. Local artists Darren Hutchens, Dan Duggan and Lawry Halden hosted an all day workshop with students from John Curtin College of the Arts and East Fremantle Primary School to come up with the design.

The results were very positive – not only has the community responded positively to the mural, the number of graffiti incidents has markedly reduced.

Council thanks all the students involved

REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF OF COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND THE TOWN

The CEO was involved in negotiations with a number of community organisations and other parties, some of which included:

- Successfully negotiating with the Department of Sport and Recreation regarding approval for the East Fremantle Lawn Tennis Club proposal for hardcourt resurfacing, lighting, fencing and parking; including negotiations with the Swan River Trust.
- Successfully negotiating with the Department of Education, after becoming aware of the issue and notwithstanding the bricks had already been ordered, to not use large and ugly “besser bricks” for new building works at the heritage listed Richmond Primary School, but rather “proper” red bricks, as befitted the heritage credentials of the building. The besser bricks were being used at 1,000's of schools across Australia with respect to standard template based works being funded under the Rudd “economic stimulus” package. The CEO was advised Richmond Primary School was one of only two schools which were ultimately

allowed to use “proper” and standard sized bricks.

- Building of the cricket/lacrosse club car park and installation of landscaping.
- Buying new line marker for the East Fremantle Croquet Club.
- Successfully negotiating with the Department of Transport a grant of \$355,000 under the Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme, although subsequently declining the grant, on the basis that a more favourable grant might be obtained in the next funding round, under more generous funding arrangements which were being mooted. (Whilst this was a risky strategy it paid off and a far more generous grant of over \$700,000, which also included provision for a parking upgrade, which had been refused in the original grant, was ultimately obtained.)
- Successfully applying to Lotterywest for a grant to assist in obtaining a Conservation Plan for the Plympton Steps and surrounding park.
- Successfully negotiating with the Department of Sport & Recreation with respect to a CSRFF funding application by the East Fremantle Tricolore Soccer Club for upgraded lighting at Wauhop Park.
- Successfully negotiating with the Department of Sport & Recreation with respect to a CSRFF funding application by the East Fremantle Bowling Club for replacement of one bowling green.
- Negotiating with East Fremantle Junior Football Club with respect to ground lighting, realignment of the oval and modifications to limestone retaining wall and potential CSRFF funding application. Subsequently there was a successful CSRFF funding application for additional lighting.

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- Negotiating the purchase of a large painting "The Old George" by renowned Fremantle artist Ian de Souza.

PRESTON POINT ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Within Council's budget and subject to priorities, Council always does what it can to improve traffic and pedestrian safety in the Town.

The main project carried out in 2010/11 involved works to Preston Point Road, which had been deferred for some time due to a combination of technical and (external) funding reasons, all of which were beyond Council's control. As at 30 June 2010 work had been proceeding on revising the project to address those issues.

In 2006, the Department of Main Roads had identified a 2km section of Preston Point Road between Petra Street and Alcester Streets as a black spot area.

Preston Point Road in some sections carries over 7,000 vehicles per day and this section had a crash rate statistically higher than the norm for rear end and right turn crashes and crashes at night.

The project was designed to improve road safety, aimed specifically at reducing the number and severity of crashes.

The design by the Roadswest Engineering Group took account of an independent road safety audit. The approved design included:

- lowering the speed environment by reducing lane widths and installing low points.
- new pedestrian crossing points and new footpaths.
- on-street parking, in accordance with current standards.
- removal of road side obstacles, such as the old post and rail fence along the sporting grounds that was a spearing hazard.

- widening of the verges and embankments along the sporting grounds to provide a 2.5m wide clear zone on the straights and 3.0m wide clear zone on the curves to provide recovery for errant vehicles.
- minor drainage improvements.
- new kerbing.
- new asphalt surfacing.
- better delineation using new signs and pavement markings.

The works were completed on 4 July 2011 and since then there has been a positive independent safety audit.

SWAN RIVER FORESHORE EROSION CONTROL WORKS

Council has carried out a large amount of these works over the past several years. Whilst the assistance of Swan River Trust funding has been appreciated, there is a growing issue for those local governments which are spending considerable sums in this regard, despite the Swan River and surrounding area being under the control of the Swan River Trust. Many of the walls now being repaired or restored were originally built by the State Government, yet with no discussion or any form of compensation, this responsibility has been passed to local government.

During the year Perth metropolitan local governments with river boundaries established the C21 partnership to help progress issues such as the above on a joint basis with the State Government.

However the C21 initiative has essentially been ignored by the Government.

Notwithstanding the above, the Town greatly values the role and work of the Swan River Trust in protecting the river and its environs and continues to be involved in a number of cooperative ventures with the Trust.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly I wish to acknowledge the important role the various sporting clubs and community organisations play in the Town. Council enjoys excellent relations with all of the East Fremantle clubs and community organisations.

They include the East Fremantle Yacht Club, Swan Yacht Club, East Fremantle Lawn Tennis Club, East Fremantle Football Club, East Fremantle Junior Football Club, East Fremantle Tricolore Soccer Club, Fremantle Spirit Soccer Club, East Fremantle Bowling Club, East Fremantle Croquet Club, Fremantle Rowing Club, East Fremantle Cricket Club, East Fremantle Junior Cricket Club, East Fremantle Lacrosse Club, 1st Fremantle Scout Group, 1st Leeuwin Scout Group, Neighbourhood Watch, Neighbourhood Link, East Fremantle Playgroup and Glyde-In.

None of these Clubs could exist without the hard work of their volunteers and the work of these many volunteers is acknowledged.

Secondly, Council again acknowledges and supports the wonderful and longstanding work of Noel Nimmo, Council's Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, and his team of volunteers.

East Fremantle was the first Council in the metropolitan area to establish a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – over 30 years ago – and only the second in the State.

Thirdly Council acknowledges the work and dedication of Sue Limbert and her many HACC volunteers, who have made that service the envy of many other local governments and, thanks to Federal member, Melissa Parke, was even mentioned in the Federal Parliament this year.

Fourthly, Council acknowledges the significant assistance of the Town Planning Advisory Panel, all volunteers and whose advice is invaluable.

Last but not least, the Town acknowledges the work of Glyde-In and its volunteers.

In late 2010 the work of Glyde-In and its volunteers was formally acknowledged at an official function, pursuant to the following Council decision:

“That:

- (i) the Town of East Fremantle congratulates the volunteer Management Committee of the Glyde-In Community Learning Centre for winning the Learning Centre Link “Team of the Year” award 2010 and East Fremantle resident Paddy Glasgow for winning the Tutor of the Year award. The awards recognise the outstanding contribution Glyde-In and its volunteers make in fostering valuable community-based learning initiatives in the Town and are a testament to the high standards Glyde-In continues to achieve in its work.*
- (ii) the Town hosts a function to formally congratulate the Management Committee and tutor Paddy Glasgow on their achievements and to recognise the positive impact of their volunteering for Town residents.”*

I particularly wish to acknowledge the support I have received from elected members in my role as CEO.

The East Fremantle community should feel very fortunate to have such an able and dedicated group at its helm.

Mayor Alan Ferris is a dedicated Mayor who and has maintained a harmonious team of Councillors.

That team: Deputy Mayor Cr Barry de Jong, Cr Alex Wilson, Cr Richard Olson, Cr Maria Rico, Cr Cliff Collinson, Cr Dean Nardi, Cr Siân Martin and Cr Rob Lilleyman deserve to be applauded for their hard work, commitment and teamwork over the past year.

Elected members are of course strongly supported by Council's employees.

Particularly given the limited career paths and support staff which can occur with small local

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governments and given the ever present threat of amalgamation, I believe Council has done well to attract and retain the competent, multiskilled and loyal staff to the degree which it has.

As Chief Executive Officer, I am proud of what the staff have achieved this year and wish to thank all staff for their loyal service, dedication, hard work and professionalism throughout the year.

As always, and as always deserved, a special thank you to my Personal Assistant, Ms Janine May. Janine has worked for the Town all her working life and is personally known to a large number of the Town's residents. Janine's corporate knowledge and skills in applying that knowledge are invaluable and represent an extraordinary Council asset. Janine invariably exhibits the highest levels of commitment, loyalty and hard work and despite having to deal with a number of difficult family matters, has given another year of outstanding professional service, frequently working beyond the call of duty yet always maintaining her wry sense of humour.

Janine, heartfelt thanks once again, for all your support, your tolerance and your unfailing good humour.

Finally and most importantly, East Fremantle residents and ratepayers are thanked for their strong support of Council over the past year.

Just a couple of weeks ago I saw a typical email from a local resident, as follows:

"I just read the article about the upgrade of the East Fremantle Shopping Centre on Canning Highway in this weekend's Fremantle Herald. As an East Fremantle resident I just wanted to say congratulations and the upgrade sounds fantastic. In fact, I've noted lots of great changes in the area recently – including an upgrade to the local playground, addition of exercise stations on the river shore and, of course, the road upgrade.

Well done, I think the Council and yourself are doing a great job in upgrading and beautifying the area.

Thanks!"

With such support it has not only made it easier to face the various challenges, but also helped make Council's efforts feel all the more worthwhile.

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OVERVIEW OF THE PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF THE DISTRICT

In June 2010 the Town adopted a Plan for the Future of the District 2010/11- 2019/20.

The Plan specifies actions, supported by cost estimates, that will help achieve Council's vision for the Town.

That vision is:

"The Town of East Fremantle will be recognised for the integration of its heritage, environment, lifestyle and community values to create the highest possible standards of sustainability.

We will be recognised as a vibrant friendly Town with a distinctive identity and a strong future – a Town where small is an advantage."

The Plan is also to be read in conjunction with Council's Strategic Plan 2008-2012.

With respect to both plans, following are some of the projects and initiatives which were undertaken or commenced in the 2010/2011 financial year:

Preston Point Road improvements

Substantial modifications were made to Preston Point Road during the year, with the aim of reducing traffic speeds and increasing the safety of road users and pedestrians. This was a \$900,000 project of which Council contributed about \$300,000.

Town Centre Redevelopment Guidelines

Works commenced on the formulation and adoption of Town Centre Redevelopment Guidelines, involving extensive community consultation.

Town Hall and Old Police Station Conservation and Restoration Works

Progress on essential preparatory work continued, particularly in relation to a structural report and other investigations.

East Fremantle Oval Precinct Master Plan

Planning took place for the development of a Business Plan for the redevelopment of this Precinct. It is intended the Business Plan will be completed late 2011-12 or early 2012-13.

Road Expenditure

One of the major goals of the Plan for the Future is to maintain and improve the standards of road infrastructure in order to maintain the asset and improve traffic flows and safety throughout the Town.

Whereas the Plan for the Future had envisaged expenditure of \$200,000 in 2010-2011 for this item and Council's budget had provided for \$255,190. Actual expenditure was \$1,205,428, with the bulk of this expenditure (\$907,893) for the Preston Point Road works.

Whilst significant grant funds were involved in the Preston Point Road expenditure, Council still contributed approximately \$300,000 meaning Council expenditure was approximately \$597,535.

Footpath and Kerbing Expenditure

Two of the major goals of the Plan for the Future are to:

- (i) maintain and improve the standard of footpaths and cycleways throughout the district
- (ii) maintain and improve the standard of road kerbing throughout the district.

The Plan for the Future envisaged expenditure of \$160,000 for footpaths and \$30,000 for kerbing in 2010-2011.

In that regard elected members budgeted \$139,978 for footpaths and \$73,413 for kerbing for the 2010-2011 year.

Actual expenditure was \$130,030 for footpaths and \$77,277 for kerbing.

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Work collaboratively through the South West Group of Councils to identify shared service opportunities

During 2010-11 Phase 2 of the shared services project progressed with a Shared Services Charter being agreed for the region. Phase 2 has also involved:

- Establishment of a regional library group to harmonise protocols.
- Formation of an HR Services regional group to identify cooperation opportunities.
- Piloting of regional purchasing training with the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA).
- Banking benchmarking pilot.
- Successful regional tender undertaken for Waste Recycling for the MRF.
- Rating comparisons undertaken for the Region.
- Linking with RSPCA to explore providing a regional pound service.
- Undertaking a two-way radio study and assessing options for regional collaboration on communications.

Raceway Park Playground

This upgrade was completed.

Henry Jeffery Oval

A cricket wicket, which will be turfied at the end of each cricket season, was installed.

Cricket /Lacrosse Club Car Park

This was completed.

Playground Expenditure

A major goal of the Plan for the Future is to improve playground equipment throughout the district.

In this regard the Plan for the Future envisaged no identified expenditure under the Plan, but rather that this item be funded through the maintenance budget.

Nevertheless elected members allocated \$55,000 for this area in the 2010-2011 budget. Actual expenditure was \$82,312.

Drainage Expenditure

A major goal of the Plan for the Future is to improve stormwater infrastructure and drainage flows throughout the district, with the aim of preventing flooding in a one-in-five year event.

In this regard the Plan for the Future envisaged expenditure of \$120,000 in 2010-2011.

Actual expenditure was \$172,987.

Crime Prevention Lighting Audit

A lighting audit was carried out. As a result street lighting in George Street was upgraded.

Street Tree Expenditure

A major goal of the Plan for the Future is to maintain and replace, where required, street trees throughout the district.

In this regard the Plan for the Future envisaged expenditure of \$10,000 in 2010-2011.

Actual expenditure was \$19,539

Petra Street resurfacing

Planning for the resurfacing of Petra Street took place with respect to works planned to commence in the 2011-12 year, and in respect of which Council has budgeted \$79,931. It is planned new drainage and kerbing works will be carried out at the same time.

This is a joint project between the Town of East Fremantle and City of Melville, which is being wholly managed by the Town.

East Fremantle Festival

Another successful Festival was held.

Exercise Equipment

Council installed public exercise equipment on the riverside verge just east of the Red Herring.

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“Dungeon”

The “Dungeon” underwent urgent conservation and restoration works.

George Street underpass mural

Work was completed on the George Street underpass mural.

Local Planning Policies

During the year all local planning policies were reviewed after which various policies were revoked, some amended and some new policies adopted.

Scheme Amendment No 9

Scheme Amendment No 9 which primarily entails the necessity for planning approval for all demolitions, was adopted and is currently awaiting Ministerial approval.

Amalgamation

Whilst, technically, not forming part of either plan, it would be remiss to not note this item in a discussion on Council's future plans, given that it goes to the issue of whether the Town has a future.

Council continued to respond to the Minister's ongoing attempts to reduce the number of local governments in WA via amalgamations, through the provision of a range of requested information and reports, involving in some cases considerable research and various assessments, and it is expected this type of activity will continue all the way to the March 2013 State election and beyond.

The following initiatives are proposed to take place in the 2011-12 financial year:

Leeuwin Boat Ramp

It is planned to build a new ramp and jetties by the end of June 2012 with further plans to upgrade the carpark, lighting and drainage in the following financial year. This is a \$1,050,000 project with Council's contribution about \$300,000.

Preston Point Road/Pier Street Roundabout, Parking Embayments and other completion works

As part of the roundabout construction works, it is planned to realign Pier Street to help reduce traffic speeds and accidents, in part through improved sightlines. It is expected that the project will be completed by April 2012.

\$30,000 has been allocated to construct new parking embayments in Preston Point Road following the recent road modifications.

\$56,353 has been allocated for other completion works.

Footpath/Kerbing Treatment

It is planned to implement a new type of footpath and kerb treatment in King Street, which in particular is designed to allow the existing street trees to remain. If the model is deemed successful it is planned to progressively implement the approach in other streets in Plympton Ward.

Council has budgeted \$168,160 for these works.

Glasson Park

In May 2012, a major upgrade of Glasson Park is planned, including new playground equipment and a path which will loop around the park. An additional BBQ, more seats and a better irrigation system will also be installed.

\$60,816 has been budgeted for these works.

128 George Street

This Council owned building has housed the Fremantle-East Fremantle Toy Library for the past 2 years. In this year it is planned to make a decision on whether to retain or lease the building.

Stirling Highway/Canning Highway Intersection

It is planned to commence works designed to make the Stirling Highway/Canning Highway

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intersection safer and more accessible to pedestrians, people with disabilities and cyclists. A significant feature will be a 'slip lane' for cyclists entering the Town from Stirling Bridge which will greatly facilitate cyclist access to Riverside Road, a designated cycle route.

This project is being designed and managed by the Town on behalf of Main Roads WA.

Exercise Equipment

Council plans to install further public exercise equipment, in a riverside location, in order to encourage residents to engage in physical activity.

East Fremantle Lawn Tennis Club

Substantial improvements to the East Fremantle Lawn Tennis Club are planned to be carried out this year including resurfacing five courts, replacing fences, installing a pollution trap, removing noxious weeds and planting native plants.

Lighting

The East Fremantle Croquet Club, the East Fremantle Junior Football Club and the East Fremantle Tricolore Soccer Club will all have new lighting installed this year, to better allow the facilities to be used in the evenings.

Residential Design Guidelines

In July consultants were employed to develop residential design guidelines for the Town. A report is expected in February 2012.

Riverside Road Pavement Repairs

This project involves the reconstruction of those areas of road pavement in Riverside Road, where there has been significant pavement failure.

Drainage works in Riverside Road are also planned.

Stratford Street Catchment Drainage

This project is due to be completed by the end of January 2012.

\$140,724 has been budgeted for these works.

Town Centre Redevelopment

Following a recent planning approval, although contingent on the resolution of an issue involving Main Roads, work is expected to begin on the long awaited Town Centre redevelopment.

Integrated Planning & Development Framework

This implementation of this resource intensive strategic planning framework, involving a large community consultation component, will be a major challenge for 2011-12 and the following financial year.

This Framework will entail the production of:

1. A 10 year and Strategic Community Plan
2. 4-5 year Corporate Business Plan
3. a long term Financial Plan
4. an Asset Management Plan
5. a Workforce Plan
6. issue-specific and service strategies and plans
7. new Plan for the Future.

Employment of a Communications Officer

Commencing in June 2011 Council employed the services of a communications firm primarily for media releases. A review is planned on a broader communications strategy, which is due to be finalised this year. This strategy will also include improvements to the management of Council's website.

Employment of Events Organiser & Manager

In addition to the East Fremantle Festival in George Street, elected members wish to employ an officer to arrange the holding of further events in the Town. A decision in this regard is planned for this year.

Plympton Steps

Work is expected to commence on the production of a Conservation Plan for the Plympton Steps and Kitson Park. This is due to be received in June 2012.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Leeuwin Barracks

It is expected to progress a decision on the most appropriate planning approaches in relation to the future of the site, should it be disposed of by the Australian Defence Forces, contingent on advice from Australian Defence Forces.

The Old Post Office

It is expected a decision will be taken on whether to acquire this building from Main Roads for Council purposes.

Town Hall & Old Police Station Conservation and Restoration Works

Following the conclusion of various preparatory investigations, it is expected a project plan will be completed, and further works progressed.

Swan Yacht Club Lease

It is expected a new lease will be finalised and entered into with the Swan Yacht Club.

Town Planning Review

A review of the Town's Local Planning Strategy and Town Planning Scheme No 3 commenced, particularly in relation to an infill survey and Scheme density provisions.

A revised draft Local Planning Strategy is due by 25 December 2011.

A draft amendment report and Scheme amendments are due to be received in February 2012.

George Street Parking & Access Management Plan

Development of a planning policy for developer contributions to the formulation of the abovementioned plan commenced and the Plan is expected to be tendered for and commenced in this year.

Anti Hoon Speed Humps

These will be installed in Riverside Road.

Riverbank erosion control works John Tonkin Park

These works will be carried out between the Leeuwin Boat Ramp and John Tonkin Park.

Fremantle Traffic Bridge Replacement Options

Council officers will continue to participate in negotiations with Main Roads and the City of Fremantle with respect to this situation.

Gazebos

It is expected the long awaited replacement of the gazebos in John Dolan Park will finally take place, subject to obtaining a "s.18 approval" from the Minister, following comprehensive and successful Aboriginal consultations. If the s.18 approval is obtained, it will facilitate the implementation of many future projects.

Road Resurfacings

It is planned to carry out road resurfacings in Hamilton Street and Stratford Street.

Ulrich Park Fence

It is proposed to install a post and rail fence around this park.

Irrigation Upgrade

\$25,680 has been allocated for two projects:

- Bay Patch Street verge
- Cricket/Lacrosse Club.

Limestone Cliff Protection Works

In relation to the Pier Street limestone cliff, \$69,500 has been allocated for works designed to prevent erosion and provide increased public safety.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

DISABILITY ACCESS & INCLUSION PLAN (DAIP) PROGRESS REPORT

The Town strives to ensure East Fremantle is optimally accessible for all people living in and visiting the Town. All activities for 2010/2011 were guided by the six Disability Access and Inclusion Plan outcomes, as detailed below.

1. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of and any events organised by a public authority.

East Fremantle's Home and Community Care Service operates buses which are modified to cater for people with disabilities, giving them the opportunity to participate in outings and providing them with transport options such as weekly shopping trips to Fremantle and Melville.

The Fremantle East Fremantle Library was successful in obtaining funding under the Australian Government's Increasing Accessibility Library Initiative for the provision of digital playback devices which are available for loan to people with print disabilities.

2. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the buildings and other facilities of the Town.

Upgrades to the Town's infrastructure including footpaths, continues in line with Council's DAIP. Roadworks in Preston Point Road include disability ramps. New disability ramps have also been installed at all new footpath works including Alexandra Road and Millenden Street. Disability access has been provided to the parking meters at Leeuwin Boat Ramp in John Tonkin Park on Riverside Road. A new bus stop has been constructed at the corner of Preston Point Road and Pier Street in June 2011 to disability standards.

Works at the Glyde-in Community Learning Centre included a new disability access rear ramp and deck, and a new unisex disabled toilet.

Works at the East Fremantle Bowling Club included a new canopy over the disability compliant access way, and previous works included the installation of a new unisex disabled toilet.

Upgrades of two of the Town's restaurants in George Street included disability access and the provision of new unisex disabled toilets in The Barque Restaurant and The Wine Store. These two premises were previously without disabled access or toilets.

3. People with disabilities receive information from a public authority in a format that will enable them to access the information as readily as other people are able to access it.

The Town ensures all written material is clear and easy to read. All publications can be requested in alternative electronic formats.

The Fremantle East Fremantle Library Service has increased its large print collection through bequest.

4. People with disabilities receive the same level and quality of service from the staff of a public authority as other people receive from the staff of that public authority.

The Town's staff are inducted in customer service, focusing on awareness of the needs of people with disabilities, to ensure all customers receive consistent service levels.

5. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to a public authority.

Council's complaints system is open to all residents, ratepayers and visitors and can be undertaken through a number of mediums such

Chief Executive Officer's Report

as email, telephone and in person. All complaints are investigated and resolved where possible. Complaints regarding access problems on government lands are referred to the relevant department. Recently Main Roads WA have agreed to fund a Council requested disability compliant upgrade of the Canning Highway/Stirling Highway intersection which will cost in the region of \$250,000 and be managed by the Town.

6. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any public consultations by a public authority.

The Town of East Fremantle ensures that people with disabilities are given the opportunity to participate in public consultation through face to face meetings, telephone, electronic and written communication. The Town's Neighbourhood Watch Committee also considers any access issues at its monthly meetings which are held in a wheelchair accessible venue. The Committee reports any hazards or risks that they may have been referred by other residents and council staff ensure that these hazards or risks are rectified.

In early 2012 the Town is to conduct a review of its Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.

EMPLOYEE DETAILS

REMUNERATION

Number of employees of the Council, in bands of \$10,000, entitled to an annual salary of \$100,000 or more:

Salary Range	2010/2011 No of Employees
\$100,000 - \$109,999	1
\$110,000 - \$119,999	0
\$120,000 - \$129,999	1

ELECTED MEMBER CONDUCT

In the financial year ending 30 June 2011, no complaints were received about the conduct of Elected Members under Section 5.121 of the Local Government Act 1995.

Finance Report

John Roberts, Executive Manager Finance & Administration

The function of the Finance and Administration staff of the Town covers a broad range of activities including financial management and reporting, accounting, information technology (including the Town's website), rating, debt collection, asset management, records management, human resource management, creditor payments, payroll, Council support, Local Law compliance services including Ranger Services,

Its primary focus is on financial management and statutory compliance in terms of transparency and disclosure. To this end, the Town prepares a Plan for the Future of the district every 2 years and an Annual Budget and audited Annual Financial Statements each year. During the year monthly financial reporting assists the Council in its role of management of Council's financial and physical resources.

Financial Management

2010/2011 Annual Budget

The Town of East Fremantle's 2010/2011 Budget was adopted at a Special Council meeting held on Tuesday 25 July 2010.

The 2010/2011 balanced budget provided for a number of significant items for the benefit of the community including:

- Preston Point Rd traffic management works \$620,192
- Road resurfacing works \$255,190
- Footpath upgrade works \$139,978
- Stratford St drainage \$278,546
- Pier St limestone protection \$50,000
- Council buildings upgrade \$442,711
- Upgrade of parks & reserves \$316,954

The budget also provided for the mowing of Council's parks and ovals. Provision was

made for three (3) general verge mows and four (4) arterial roads verge mows.

In addition to Council's waste management and recycling services, one bulk rubbish and three green waste collections continue to be provided annually.

Support was continued to be provided for community services such as the Glyde-In Centre; Infant Health Clinic; Community Midwifery Program; Council's Home and Community Care services and the George Street Festival.

Council budgeted for an overall rate income increase of 6% for residential and commercial rates.

2010/2011 Annual Financial Statements

The Annual Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2011 has been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and complies with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulations under that Act. The audit was conducted by Macri Partners and their Interim Audit Report was presented to the Audit Committee at its meeting held on the 26 July 2011. A copy of the Audited Financial Statements is included at the end of this document.

Operating Statement

The Operating Statement shows a surplus of \$1,010,617 compared with budgeted surplus of \$863,416. The increase in the operating surplus can be attributed to additional income from rates, fines and penalties and a number of projects deferred from 2009/2010.

Consolidated Surplus

The consolidated surplus consists of the Municipal and Reserve funds for the Town of East Fremantle. The Financial Position Statement for the year ended 30 June 2010 shows a surplus of \$4,482,054. This includes Restricted Cash and Reserves funds of \$3,678,267 held by Council (see note 3 of the Annual Financial Statement) for the future

Finance Report

development of assets of the Town of East Fremantle.

Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Financial Position

This statement provides for the assets, liabilities and equity for the Town of East Fremantle. The net equity increase from the 2009/2010 financial year Financial Position Statement to the 2010/2011 year is represented by the operating surplus of \$1,010,617.

Council invests surplus funds in term deposits with banks, building societies and property trusts to provide a positive return on its investment. The interest received for the 2009/2010 year was \$334,815 and included \$120,403 transferred to Council's Reserve Funds.

Council continues to monitor its debt service level and maintains a reduction debt strategy. Council raised no new loans during the year.

Financial Ratios

In assessing the performance of the financial resources, Council statements include ratios which provide a comparison between the three financial years. This report details a comparison between the 2008/2009 financial year, 2009/2010 financial year and the 2010/2011 financial year. The ratios include:-

	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09
Current Ratio equals Purpose: To assess adequacy of working capital and the ability to satisfy short term obligations. The figures shows an increase in the current equity	0.68	1.44	1.35
Debt Ratio equals Purpose: To identify exposure to debts by measuring the proportion of assets funded by creditors. The figures show a reduction in the debts outstanding.	9.60%	10.24%	11.79%

	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09
Debt Service Ratio equals Purpose: To assess the degree to which revenues are committed to the repayment of debt. The figures show a reduction in the amount of Loan repayments from income.	0.70%	2.40%	2.80%
Rate Coverage Ratio equals Purpose: To assess the degree of dependence upon revenue from rates The figures show a decrease in the income received from rates	63.70%	64.70%	65.58%
Outstanding Rates Ratio equals Purpose: To assess the impact of uncollected rates on liquidity and the adequacy of recovery efforts. The figures show an increase in outstanding rates and charges which have been levied	2.10%	2.47%	2.44%

Rating

The Town of East Fremantle levied \$6.14m of rates in 2010/2011 including the Emergency Services Levy of \$758,692. Of this \$6.049m was collected. \$86,485 was deferred under the Pensioner Deferred Rates scheme giving an effective collection rate of 99.6%. The Town continued its endeavour to provide excellent customer service in a cost effective manner.

To ensure Council's continued compliance rating legislation and procedures, Council is an active member of the Local Government Rates Officer Group. The group meets regularly to discuss compliance and clarification of current issues.

Records Management

The Town of East Fremantle has demonstrated its ongoing commitment to good and compliant record keeping practices by adhering to its Record Keeping Plan which was approved by the State Records Commission in December 2008 and remains valid until 2012.

Finance Report

As a component of the approval of the Town's Record Keeping Plan the Town is required by the State Records Office to remain compliant with the State Records Act 2000. A part of the actions necessary to maintain those requirements the Town adopted record keeping guidelines to assist elected members to manage the official records created or received by them in the course of their work for the Town of East Fremantle.

All correspondence is registered in Council's electronic document management system records system and stored electronically for distribution and archival purposes. For the year ending 30 June 2011, 7,580 individual items of correspondence were recorded, scanned and processed through this system.

To assist in the security and efficient handling of records a new scanner and two bar code scanners have been installed during the year

To ensure Council's continued compliance with the State Records Act and procedures, Council is an active member of the Local Government Records Management Group which consists of member councils from the 144 councils within Western Australia. The group liaises with the State Records Office to ensure compliance and clarification of current issues.

Information Communication Technology

Council obtains statistics regarding usage of the website. On average the site receives 2000 hits a month, generally seeking information regarding building and planning requirements, waste & recycling information, and employment in addition to payment of rates. Hits have been received from such diverse locations as Jordan; Morocco, Ghana and India.

Council maintained its commitment to providing administration staff with up to date ICT equipment to support efficient and effective services to the community. Upgrades to the Town's Enterprise software

took place during the year. Replacement of older computer hardware and anti virus/firewall software also occurred during the year as part of the ongoing replacement program.

Local Laws

Council concluded its 8 year review of the Town's Local Laws. The review identified a number of Local Laws that had become redundant and should be repealed and a number of Local Laws which require minor amendments. The Repeal and Amendment Local Laws will be advertised later in 2011 and will be available for public comment as required under the Local Government Act 1995.

Risk Management

Council has embarked on the implementation of a Risk Management Plan. The implementation is comprised of a three stage approach.

Stage 1 was an Occupational Safety & Health assessment which included an audit, improvement and re-audit process which has now been completed.

Stage 2 is currently underway and is an insurable risk review. This review has been concluded and findings will be discussed in conjunction with the Town's insurance broker.

Stage 3 will commence in 2011/2012 and comprise of preparing a risk management plan. Risk management software has been installed to complement the implementation of the risk management plan.

Town Planning Public Domain

Ken Dyer, Operations Manager

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROJECTS

Road Resurfacing Program

Alexandra Road

Osborne Road

Millenden Street

Clayton Street (section near Fraser Street after drainage installation)

Preston Point Road

The road resurfacing program for 2010-11 was undertaken during March and April of 2011. The works were carried out without profiling the existing pavement as has previously been the standard practice. The existing pavement was crack sealed and a 30mm asphalt overlay was installed. The installation process was once again achieved without profiling, which produced a saving of approximately \$5.00/m². The deletion of the profiling process significantly reduced the Town of East Fremantle's waste disposal costs.

All roads resurfaced in the program were subject to installation of new kerbing where required. The old kerb was profiled down to road level and new kerb was installed on the same alignment. Apart from the aesthetics, the installation of new kerbing allows for a further asphalt overlay to be installed when the roads become due for resurfacing in the future.

Preston Point Road Black Spot Program

In 2006 Main Roads identified the 2km long section of Preston Point Road between Petra and Alcester Streets as a Black Section with a crash rate statistically greater than the norm. In particular rear end crashes, right turn against crashes and crashes at night were found to be over-represented.

A large proportion of the traffic on Preston Point Road is due to motorists choosing to use it as an alternative route to Canning Highway, primarily because it has no traffic lights and they are able to commute at relatively high

speed. The combination of fast moving through-traffic mixed with on-street parking and local traffic is believed to be the main contributing factor to the high crash rate.

Council undertook design works in consultation with Main Roads WA. The design team included a Main Roads Senior Road Safety Auditor's review and approval.

Council's approved design for the road safety improvements included the following modifications:

- Separation of the opposing streams of traffic and provision of a pedestrian refuge by installing a centre median,
- Lowering of the speed environment by reducing lane widths and installing slow points.
- New pedestrian crossing points and new footpaths.
- On-street parking in accordance with current standards.
- Removal of roadside obstacles such as the old post and rail fence along the sporting grounds that was a spearing hazard.
- Widening of the verges and embankments along the sporting grounds to provide a 2.5m wide clear zone on the straights and 3.0m wide clear zone on the bends to provide recovery width for errant vehicles.
- Minor drainage improvements.
- New kerbing.
- New asphalt surfacing.
- Better delineation using new signs and pavement markings.

Construction costs were funded through the State Government Black Spot Program, the Federal Government's Roads to Recovery Program and the Town of East Fremantle's Capital Works Program. The design was approved by Council and the Construction Contract was subsequently awarded to Advantesting Civil Engineers. Advantesting commenced works on 28 March 2011. The

Town Planning Public Domain

works reached practical completion on the 15 June 2011.

The Town of East Fremantle will undertake post construction traffic counts and a Road Safety Audit to determine the outcomes of the road safety design improvements.

Footpath Program

Irwin Street
Pier Street
Hillside Road
Stratford Street.
Alexandra Road.

The footpath program commenced in August 2010 and was completed in June 2011.

The works in Stratford Street between house number 13 and house number 23 included replacing the old slab footpath with a red oxide asphalt seal and edge kerbing. A section of footpath on Irwin Street and the footpath on Hillside Road were replaced with a red oxide asphalt seal and concrete edge kerbing. The existing black asphalt footpaths on Alexandra Road were reconstructed and surfaced with a red oxide asphalt seal and timber and recycled plastic edging.

The proposed upgrade of a section of footpath in Pier Street near the intersection of Preston Point Road has been rescheduled due to the proposed installation of a new roundabout at the intersection of Pier Street and Preston Point Road. The roundabout design could impact on the footpath area and as such the footpath upgrade has been delayed.

Drainage Upgrades

- The upgrade of drainage for the Stratford Street Catchment, Stage 2A was completed with the drainage installations being tested by some heavy rainfall events. No further flooding of properties at the low point in Stratford Street has occurred since the drainage upgrade.
- Drainage upgrades were undertaken in Dalgety Street, Oakover Street, Allen Street and Fortescue Street to alleviate

local flooding events. Drainage structures in May Street were upgraded to prevent stormwater bypassing the existing inadequate structures and causing further flooding problems downstream at the Silas Street roundabout.

Car Parks

Construction of a new 30 bay car park at the cricket/lacrosse grounds was completed on budget. All works to install the car park, including: survey, design, limestone retaining walls, drainage, bollards, base works and irrigation relocation were undertaken by Town of East Fremantle staff.

Playground Equipment

The playground equipment and play area edging at Raceway Park were renewed during this financial year. The playground equipment was chosen to provide opportunities for children of all age groups to enjoy the park's facilities.

The adult exercise equipment included in the 2010/2011 budget has been ordered and delivery and installation is expected in September 2011.

Town Beautification Works

Works undertaken include replacement of bollards, sanding, painting and deck oil to many of the Town's bench seats, picnic tables, Raceway Park timber shelter, park signage name plates and all existing gazebos shelters.

PARKS & RESERVES

Street verge - tree planting

The annual planting of street trees was carried out in Oct 2010, with approximately 50 trees planted throughout the Town. We are continuing to lose some mature Queensland box trees due to lack of rainfall, however a more average rainfall this year should improve the situation.

Town Planning Public Domain

Tree pruning

We are continuing to prune our street trees along footpaths and roads especially along footpaths and roads earmarked for resurfacing works. All palm trees along Riverside Road were pruned of old fronds. The falling fronds had become a hazard to passing motorists, bike riders and pedestrians

East Fremantle Oval

The annual remedial works were carried out in September 2010 prior to the end of the season to accommodate the East Fremantle Football Clubs' hosting of a home final. The Club requested that the contractor Turfmaster carry out the works. The variety of turf laid was not the same as existing turf, being a couch turf over sown with rye grass whereas the existing turf is kikuyu. There was approximately 800m² of new turf installed with Town of East Fremantle staff required to sand and roll in the new turf.

Approximately 250m² of synthetic turf was installed to the players race and interchange area. Previously this area required re-turfing on an annual basis. The synthetic turf used has a 7 year warranty but is expected to provide a nominal 10 year life.

Other works to the oval included verti draining, low mow and regular fertilizing.

Wauhop Park

Minor remedial works were carried out including verti mowing, sweeping and regular fertilizing. The top ground seems to be suffering from overuse as some areas are wearing out. Major ground works may need to be undertaken to improve the playing surface. The East Fremantle Soccer Club may need to more carefully monitor the number of teams using the grounds to reduce the impact on the ground of over usage.

Wauhop Park along with Henry Jeffrey Oval and Preston Reserve have also suffered from the lack of winter rainfall through 2010. The Town's irrigation system for the area which

includes Wauhop Park, Henry Jeffrey Oval, Preston Point Reserve (Cricket/Lacrosse), and the East Fremantle Tennis Club has been stretched this year with all available bore times being used to maintain the playing fields.

Henry Jeffrey Oval

The irrigation system has been extended with 12 sprinklers being installed to get water coverage closer to boundary. The new sprinklers cover an approximate 2500m² of area. The oval was verti mowed and fertilised.

Cricket/Lacrosse

The irrigation system was extended with 12 sprinklers being installed to get better coverage to the boundary. With the completion of the new car park area, the irrigation was re-instated around the club house and car park area.

Memorial Rose Garden

A new irrigation system was installed to the Memorial Rose Garden area. The system is fully automated and removes the need for hand watering

GRANT FUNDING:

The Town of East Fremantle is currently in receipt of Grant funding for the following projects:

- Anti Hoon Speed Humps Program. \$ 31,800
- Erosion Control at John Tonkin Park Grant 11EF01. \$ 33,250
- Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme Round 16. \$750,000
- Main Roads Western Australia Black Spot Program. \$153,978

Anti Hoon Speed Humps Program

The Anti Hoon speed humps program will be carried out during the 2011/12 financial year.

Swan River Trust Riverbanks Grant Scheme

Funding from the Swan River Trust Erosion Control program will be used to install

Town Planning Public Domain

erosion control measures between the Leeuwin Boat Ramp and John Tonkin Park.

Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme Round 16

After being successful in gaining grant funding of \$355,000 from the Department of Transport in the Round 15 Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme, the Town of East Fremantle withdrew its application in favour of taking part in Round 16 of the scheme.

The Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme Round 16 Grant provided a 75% contribution from The Department of Transport to a maximum of \$750,000. The Town was successful in its grant application for the maximum grant and can now include a full car park upgrade as part of the Leeuwin boat ramp and jetties renewal.

Black Spot Funding:

The Town was successful in gaining grant funding for the design and construction of a roundabout for the intersection of Pier Street and Preston Point Road. This intersection has an unconventional layout with significant misalignment of the east and west legs. The unconventional layout combined with vertical geometry makes it difficult to see the intended channelization from a distance and results in confusion and erroneous behaviour from motorists. Design and construction will be carried out in 2011–12.

Health Services

HEALTH SERVICES

Shelley Cocks Principal Environmental Health Officer

The role of Principal Environmental Officer at the Town of East Fremantle encompasses the enforcement of legislation including Health Act 1911 (as amended), Environmental Protection Act 1986 (as amended), Food Act 2008, Disability Services Act 1993, Emergency Management Act 2005, Tobacco Products Control Act 2006 and regulations made pursuant to those Acts; and Health Local Laws.

Health Act 1911

The Public Health Bill 2008 was to have been adopted and introduced during the year. However the first reading of this Bill only occurred in November 2010. Once proclaimed, the new Act will replace the Health Act 1911 and will be based on a risk assessment approach to health rather than prescriptive regulation.

The Tobacco Products Control Amendment Act 2009

On 22 September 2010 the *Tobacco Products Control Amendment Act 2009* came into effect which banned smoking in the following areas:

- outdoor eating areas
- vehicles with children under 17 years of age
- within 10 metres of children's playground equipment in a public place
- between the flags at patrolled swimming areas on beaches

Licensed premises such the Royal George Tavern, the Left Bank Bar and Café and the Trade Winds Hotel have set aside small percentages of their outdoor dining areas as smoking zones.

Council's EHO liaised with all owners and occupiers of premises containing outdoor eating areas, to advise them of the new requirements. The ban has reduced the

number of complaints about smoking in public areas to zero. Premises advised of the ban on smoking in outdoor eating areas include Chinottos Café, George Street Merchants, George Street Bistro, Hubble's Yard, the Quarterdeck Deli, Limones Restaurant, Gigis on George and Zephyrs Café.

The display of tobacco products, packages and smoking implements at point of sale has been severely restricted at premises which sell cigarettes such as Foodworks, the East Fremantle Newsagent and the Quarterdeck Deli.

Food Premises & Food Surveillance

Food premises inspections are undertaken periodically to ensure hygiene standards and cleanliness in food handling areas are maintained.

During the period 30 June 2010 to 1 July 2011 a total of 40 routine food premises inspections were undertaken and food safe audits of Pilgrim House, Braemar House and Little People's Place were also completed.

Food Hygiene and Safety

This year Council participated in a metropolitan wide microbiological sampling of sliced deli meats. The report is to be issued later in the year.

Food Recalls

A total of 25 food product recalls were recorded for 2010/11.

Council's Principal Environmental Health Officer ensures all food recalls are brought to the attention of supermarkets and delis, and that foods are removed from sale, where required.

Food complaints

A total of four food complaints were received in 2010/11.

All complaints are investigated and this may involve working closely with food handlers,

Health Services

retail outlets, food manufacturers, chemical analysts and entomologists.

Public Building Inspections

Regular public building inspections were carried out for compliance with the Health (Public Building) Regulations 1992. Council's building maintenance program has ensured that more of our sporting clubs and halls now comply with this legislation.

Public Swimming Pools

The Town of East Fremantle currently have five pools at four premises which constitute public swimming pools. All pools are sampled monthly, when open, to ensure compliance with bacteriological and amoebic standards.

During 2010/1 a total of 51 samples were taken, all compliant.

Environmental River Sampling

Regular samples are taken of river water near the Zephyr Café at John Tonkin Park. These samples are taken to boost the Department of Health's sampling schedule which comprises water samples being taken on a fortnightly basis during the summer season (November to April). The results of this sampling are utilised for the development of a website titled "Healthy Swimming in Western Australian Waterways" found at www.healthyswimming.health.wa.gov.au

Sites within the river are provided with a Grade of A,B,C or D (green, amber, red) denoting safety for swimming. The area in front of the Zephyr Café is currently graded green.

Environmental Management Plan

Council continues to comply with its Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for Council's mooring pens, as a condition of having a River Reserve Lease. The Plan is a tool to help the Town improve its environmental management through minimising the potential for water pollution resulting from use of the mooring pens. Pen

lessees are obliged to exercise their duty of care with regard to the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and minimise the risk of an environmental incident. Bacteriological samples taken at the jetties have been satisfactory to date.

Pollution

Council's Principal Environmental Health Officer is available to provide advice in relation to most environmental matters, and can investigate complaints relating to noise, air and water borne pollution.

Noise Pollution

Apart from the Left Bank, a total of 9 noise complaints were received (compared with 18 last year) and can be classified as follows:

Noisy party (Bedford St)	1
Early morning deliveries (Kaleeya Hospital)	1
Caged birds	2
Air conditioner noise	3
Starter pistol EFYC	1
Refuelling at night (Caltex)	1

There were also periodic telephone complaints in regard to early morning building noise which were resolved through communication with building license applicants.

Council worked with the Office of Racing, Gaming and Liquor and the Left Bank Bar and Café to resolve a Section 117 complaint which had been made by six complainants, all residents of Angwin Street, in relation to the Left Bank. A series of mediation meetings were held, and the management of the Left Bank has agreed to change the way they operate their business in order to reduce noise emissions.

Air Pollution

The burning of rubbish or the use of incinerators is not permitted within the Town of East Fremantle. Wood burning fires are a major source of pollution during winter in Perth as smoke particles from wood smoke contribute up to 40-60% of winter haze. Smoky chimney complaints are investigated

Health Services

from the view point of education not enforcement.

Two smoke complaints were resolved during 2010/11.

Several enquiries regarding the safe removal and disposal of asbestos were received by Council.

Contaminated Sites

Three sites in East Fremantle have been formally classified as contaminated sites. The Town has been advised that there have been Registrations of Memorials placed on the Aquarama Marina and the Swan Yacht Club under Section 59 of the Contaminated Sites Act. In these instances, the WAPC may not approve of subdivisions or amalgamations, and Council may not approve any proposed development without consulting with Department of Environment and Conservation. The property at 243 Canning Highway has had a Notice of a classification of a known or suspected contaminated site placed on it. This site may not be used for a park or community garden before a detailed site investigation be carried out to ascertain whether the site is fit for purpose.

Pest Control Services

Council's environmental health service provides Racumin sachets for the control of rodents in residential areas and Talon wax baits for the Town of East Fremantle rodent baiting program. A total of 456 residents collected free rat baits over the financial year compared with 387 the previous year. Advice and information is also given to the public in relation to pest control with most queries relating to rats, mice, ants, bees, paper wasps, European wasps, cockroaches, head lice, mosquitoes and white cedar moth. Information and advice is also available on a wide variety of garden pests, weeds and noxious plants.

Waste Management & Recycling

SMRC annual figures:

Month	Rubbish tonnages	Recycling tonnages
July 2010	227.60	75.60
Aug 2010	184.90	75.70
Sept 2010	190.00	76.80
Oct 2010	252.10	118.80
Nov 2010	179.10	93.70
Dec 2010	258.80	102.80
Jan 2011	201.40	79.20
Feb 2011	197.80	88.50
March 2011	189.00	81.40
April 2011	227.10	120.50
May 2011	183.22	78.32
June 2011	179.50	75.70
TOTALS	2,470.52	1,067.02
Last Year	2,195.00	1,010.00

Bulk Verge Collections

Year	Greenwaste Tonnages	Bulk Tonnages
2009-10	278 tonnes	182 tonnes inc 45 tonnes recycled steel
2010-11	217 tonnes	129.4 tonnes inc 17 tonnes recycled steel and 5.5 tonnes recycled e-waste

Recycling initiatives which reduce the landfill of hazardous household wastes include drop off points at the Town Hall for:

- mobile phones and associated batteries via the Mobile Muster, approx 20 kg collected.
- battery recycling, approx 100 kg collected.
- printer cartridges via the Planet Ark program, and
- needles and syringes into dedicated sharps containers.

The Apace Native Plant Subsidy Scheme

East Fremantle residents will have the opportunity each year to purchase subsidised plants from Apace. Below is a comparison of the other participating Councils participation in the scheme.

Health Services

COUNCIL	Budget	Plant Qty	Limit	Balance	Sold
Fremantle	3000	2000	20	249	1751
Melville	6000	4000	30	0	4000
East Fremantle	7500	5000	50	4465	535
Cockburn	5230	3480	20	0	3480
<i>via WESROC</i>					
Mosman Park	3000	2000	80	275	1725
Subiaco	3000	2000	80	0	2000
Nedlands	4500	3000	80	811	2189
Cambridge	3975	2650	80	449	2201
Cottesloe	3000	2000	80	533	1467
Claremont	2850	1900	80	1003	897
Peppermint Grove	255	170	50	102	68

Graffiti Removal Project

Month	Cost of graffiti removal
July 2010	\$1,960.75
Aug 2010	1,501.26
Sept 2010	478.26
Oct 2010	593.34
Nov 2010	578.00
Dec 2010	462.91
Jan 2011	567.77
Feb 2011	1,185.28
March 2011	271.10
April 2011	1,117.80
May 2011	585.84
June 2011	791.51
Total	\$10,093.82

Child Health Centre

The Sumpton Green facility provided by Council hosts the East Fremantle Playgroup and the Child Health Clinic. In the last financial year there were 1,971 individual contacts and 723 group contacts.

Clinic nurses deal with a number of issues including post natal depression, developmental screening and nutrition. Other services include:

- weekly new parent groups including adjustment to parenthood, baby massage, play and development and providing a safe environment,
- communication with a new baby including settling strategies and early communication,
- “Introduction to Family Foods” around the 6 months of age.
- “Toddler Workshops” including nutrition and eating patterns, bed time and sleep, toileting, development and behaviour.

These services are available on a regular basis through appointment by contacting the Community Nurse on 93192384. Home visits are also undertaken by the Nurse.

Library Services

Library Membership Statistics as at 30/6/10	Fremantle residents, workers, students 9274	253 Toy Library members
	East Fremantle residents, workers, students 1892	97 Toy Library members
Library Membership Statistics as at 30/6/11	Fremantle residents, workers students 10,980	272 Toy Library members
	East Fremantle residents, workers, students 2,003	114 Toy Library members

The Toy Library will move to its new home in Hilton by the end of the year.

Emergency Management

I regularly attend Local Emergency Management Meetings as required by the Emergency Management Act 2005, along with Ranger Services.

Specific local government responsibilities under the Act are:

1. The establishment of an active Local Emergency Management Committee which meets on a regular basis.

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2. The formulation and establishment of Local Community Emergency Management Arrangements and a Local Recovery Plan.
3. The management of recovery activities within their local government district and the appointment of a Local Recovery Coordinator.

Members of the Local Welfare Committee attended an exercise aimed at providing an overview of the operation of a local welfare evacuation centre and to test the local welfare plan. The exercise was held at the Main Hall of the Melville Civic Centre and was very useful in working with the plan and identifying areas that need further work. It was also interesting to further understand the roles that the Red Cross and Salvation Army play during emergencies.

Crime Prevention Partnership

The Town of East Fremantle continues the implementation of its Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan in conjunction with the State Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy (2004), local police and Neighbourhood Watch Groups, the local business community and residents.

Following a successful grant application from the Office of Crime Prevention to assist in the implementation of the Town of East Fremantle Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan, Council hired Chris Cabbage of Amlec House to undertake a limited lighting audit in George Street, Silas Street, Duke Street and Council Place. Lighting assessments were also undertaken of a sample of suburban streets. The resultant report makes many recommendations for the improvement of unsatisfactory lighting levels in East Fremantle. Further grant funding was utilised to improve street lighting in George Street and Western Power upgraded 13 mercury vapour lamps with the more energy efficient compact fluorescent lamps.

East Fremantle Festival.

On Sunday December 5, the Town of East Fremantle presented its annual community festival on George Street from 1pm to 7pm. We used the event to promote our latest mural in Glasson Park which was created by artists Dan Duggan and Darren Hutchens and students from John Curtin College of the Arts.

George Street was filled with stalls selling handmade items, gourmet food vendors selling tasty treats, performances by local talent on stage and roving up and down the street, and businesses and local community groups promoting their products and services.

Glasson Park was abuzz with lots of colour and lots of free activities including giant games, circus skills workshops and inflatable amusements. A baby animal zoo was well attended. Free face painting and balloon modelling were enjoyed by many. The climbing wall was in use all day, as usual.

The main stage performances at the Festival this year included Tribal, Tap and Bollywood dancing, and the new group Red Alert, six 10 year olds, who got the crowd rocking with their classic hits. Old favourite Prita Grealy sang her folk melodies that were saturated in soul, the Blue Celts played a heady brew of Celtic rhythm and blues, Dilip and the Davs performed their infectious melodies and got the crowd 'a groovin' and we finished up with the Sambanistas, Perth's original and best Samba group.

The George Street Artisan Market was appreciated by many festival goers, with many handmade items being purchased for unique Christmas presents. More than 90 art, craft and gourmet food stalls filled George Street, along with the many gift and clothing stores, cafes and restaurants that were open for business. The artisan market boasted a range of hand crafted items including jewellery, clothing and accessories, hand bags and purses, textiles, glassware, ceramics, cards, paintings, photography, soaps and

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candles, natural skincare, preserves, olive oils and much more.

The food this year was again expanded to cater for the large festival crowd and included homemade low fat ice cream and yoghurts, fruit slushies, warm edible nuts, cupcakes, gourmet coffee, Boost Juice, crepes, croissants, baked spuds, chicken satays, a sausage sizzle, salads and German and Latin American dishes and more.

This community festival was proudly presented by the Town of East Fremantle and supported by major sponsor Lotterywest. Other sponsors included the Fremantle Herald, Complete Portables, Northern Star Ocean Products, the Wine Store, NookProperty, the Tradewinds Hotel and George Street Merchants.

NEIGHBOURHOOD LINK – HACC SERVICES

Sue Limbert JP, Community Services Officer

The Home and Community Care (HACC) program is a joint Australian and State and territory government initiative. The program is a central element of the Australian Government's aged care policy, providing community care services to frail aged and younger people with disabilities, and their carers.

The Neighbourhood Link program receives funding to support people who live at home and whose capacity for independent living is at risk, or who are at risk of premature or inappropriate admission to long term-residential care. The Neighbourhood Link HACC program is a critical component in providing this independence through its diverse and innovative programs and services.

The Western Australian (WA) Home and Community Care Assessment Framework was implemented on 31 January 2011, this saw a focus for entry, assessment and service delivery in all WA HACC programs. The

Neighbourhood Link program warmly embraced these changes. In simple terms the client/care journey now commences at the local Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre for eligibility screening and information provision. Eligible clients/carers are referred to a Regional Assessment Service for an assessment of their needs and discussion about their goals. Where the assessed needs indicate a requirement for ongoing support the Regional Assessment Service refers the client/carer to the appropriate HACC service/s and or/support outside the HACC program. The aim of the Framework is to build on existing best practice principles in assessment and attain positive outcomes for clients and carers across the HACC sector in WA.

Along with all other service providers we were required to consider the care and business practices we have in place and develop ways to improve them. We were required to show how they are meeting specified care standards and accountability requirements.

The streamlined quality reporting builds on and replaces existing systems for all HACC service providers. The HACC focus was on assisting providers to tailor their services to better meet service recipients' needs and to improve their processes.

Key achievements for Neighbourhood Link included:

- All sections of Neighbourhood Link worked as an effective team towards achieving our purpose.
- Service was provided to all clients.
- Continued support was provided to Care-Options and Volunteer Home Support and by sitting on the various boards and committees.
- Continued links and networking with other agencies within the disability and frail aged sectors.
- Provided support, supervision and assessment for students on fieldwork placements from Central TAFE, Challenger TAFE and Polytechnic TAFE.

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- Two HACC staff attended the Communitywest HACC 'Embracing Change Conference' on the 9 and 10 December 2010 at the Burswood Convention Centre.
- We were successful in obtaining non-recurrent HACC funding to replace two HACC vehicles.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to the staff, students and volunteers, many of whom have had to work through busy workload schedules, and a huge thanks to the CEO Stuart Wearne, the Mayor and Councillors who have supported the service through the provision of a high level of professional governance.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH & GRAFFITI PROGRAMS

Noel Nimmo, NHW Co-ordinator

Suburb Co-ordinator: Noel Nimmo
Area Suburb Managers: Barrie Renouf & Rod Francis
Street Reps & Members Delivering Newsletters: 41
Volunteers who help N H W: 41
Volunteers who help Graffiti: 36
Estimated NHW Members 2000.

A monthly meeting is held at the East Fremantle Dovenby House at 2.00pm on the second Thursday of each month. This is attended by the East Fremantle Neighbourhood Watch committee, a member from the Council, a representative from Main Roads, and volunteers. Also when possible, members from Fremantle Police and Community Police.

Our area is divided into two sections: north and south of Canning Highway. Three thousand three hundred NHW newsletters are delivered to all homes in East Fremantle every second month of the year. It is hoped that the newsletters help to alleviate the fear of crime by advising the community of what crime has happened in a particular locality.

No names, addresses or personal details are revealed, only streets, day and time and a general description of the crime are recorded.

The objectives of the newsletters are to:

- Promote protection and security for seniors at risk.
- Assist in dealing with telephone solicitations and door to door salesman.
- Advise of current frauds and scams.
- Advise of crime prevention programs.
- Provide information on how to avoid becoming a victim of crime.
- Provide home security information and inspection by police
- Promote expanded involvement in NHW.
- Provide information on method of reporting crimes to the police
- Provide a phone number that is not a police number. This is very popular.

If a member advise NHW they are going away, other members will regularly check the front of their empty home.

Engraving of valuables can be arranged through NHW. Items that cannot be engraved can be photographed for members

When graffiti is reported to Neighbourhood Watch, a photo is taken and the details recorded. This information is then passed on to the appropriate departments involved with removal of the offending material. A follow up photo is taken to check the graffiti has been removed. The graffiti program was started in September 2001.

During 2009/10, 2058 photos were taken at 405 sites.

During 2010/11, 653 photos were taken at 131 sites. The best result for a long time.

A tour of the entire East Fremantle area is taken when required, sometimes up to five times a week. Photos are taken and the graffiti is reported and removed as soon as possible.

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Each week reports and photos are mailed or handed to the following:

- Western Power
- Main Roads
- Water Corporation
- Telstra
- Fremantle Police and Community Police as required
- Town of East Fremantle.

Weekly removal of graffiti on our blue bus stops by Council and NHW. NHW members are looking after the blue poles.

Meetings and discussions are taking place with other councils on graffiti attacks which have resulted in charges being laid.

During the year members of NHW undertook and passed a child car restraint installation course. During the past couple of months we have successfully fitted 8 vehicles with child restraints.

The Crime Alert program, introduced in 2008 is still operating. During this time, we have received 60 street alerts with over 1,500 letters delivered.

A number of phone calls (on graffiti, stealing, car theft, suspicious persons and other concerns people had) were recorded on our Neighbourhood Watch phone over the past 12 months from concerned residents who wanted to ensure the police received any relevant information.

Town of East Fremantle provides an annual budget allocation for expenses, for which we are very thankful.

With the help of all of our volunteers, Neighbourhood Watch has had a very active and successful year. Thanks to all my volunteers, they are the East Fremantle Neighbourhood Watch.

The NHW Committee would like to record its appreciation and thanks to the Town of East

Fremantle and all staff for their help and guidance over the year. Also to the Fremantle Police, Community Police, the ladies who print out newsletters and the member of the Office of Crime Prevention.

RANGER SERVICES

Andrew Driver, Senior Ranger

Overview

For the majority of the year ending 30 June 2011, Ranger Services were manned by one full time Senior Ranger and one casual Ranger working a total average of 26 hours per week.

Services and Responsibilities

Rangers are Authorised Officers under the following Acts and Regulations:

- Dog Act
- Animal Welfare Act
- Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act
- Litter Act
- Bush Fires Act
- Off Road Vehicles Act
- Local Government Act
- Local Government(Miscellaneous Provisions Act
- Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act
- Fish Resources Management Act
- Town of East Fremantle's Local Laws

Council's Ranger Services are also responsible for:

- Assisting with road closures
- Assisting emergency services at traffic accidents
- Parking
- Mooring pens/Launching Ramp
- Cash collections and banking
- Courier duties
- Community education programs
- Insurance applications
- Safety and security of Council property
- Emergency management response
- Liaising with emergency services

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- Liaising with school authorities
- Liaising with business holders
- Liaising with residents and community members
- Liaising with community youth groups
- Liaising with Defence Department

Dog Statistics

Infringement notices

From 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 Rangers issued a total of nineteen (19) infringement notices for contraventions of the West Australian Dog Act.

Cautionary notices

From 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 Rangers issued two hundred and thirty one (231) cautionary notices for contraventions of the West Australian Dog Act, 97% of cautionary notices were issued to non residents of the Town of East Fremantle

The face value of these cautionary notices had they been issued as infringements was \$23,800.

Attacks

From 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011, there were two (2) dog attacks involving injuries to humans, which have both been settled with all medical costs and lost earnings recovered to the satisfaction of the injured parties.

There were four (4) dog attacks involving injuries to other animals. These files have been closed and settled with the attacking dog's owners reimbursing all veterinary costs.

One of these dogs was euthanised at the request of the owner.

On average Rangers attended two (2) minor dog incidents per week, with numbers increasing during the summer months. These minor incidents usually involve a dog's alleged or perceived intimidating and aggressive behaviour or general nuisances.

A number of these cases occurred in off lead exercise areas and were generally the result of an owner throwing a ball/loved toy for their dog to chase and other off lead dogs chasing the same ball.

In all cases the dog's owner was identified and a Ranger was allocated to work with the owner to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities under the Dog Act and to assist the owner with advice on behavioural control techniques available to them to train their dog safely and correctly.

A significant number of these reported cases were in fact situations defined as lawful under the Dog Act (1976), such as a dog barking aggressively at pedestrians while lawfully contained behind satisfactory containment fencing or gates.

Education

Ranger Services have conducted an extensive "Dog Awareness" program in the Town of East Fremantle.

This included Rangers being rostered on duty between the hours of 6.30am and 8pm and working a substantial number of hours on a voluntary unpaid basis in areas of high dog usage (ie foreshore areas, Niergarup Track areas, Preston Point Road, Silas Street Park and Marmion Street).

Numerous dog owners were spoken to for various offences with verbal and written cautions being issued on each occasion. During the educational "dog owner awareness education programme" rangers suspended the issuance of infringement notices in general but were authorised to issue infringements to repeat offenders.

Also due to the educational programme the ranger services team distributed a total of one thousand two hundred and ten (1,210) informational brochures to dog owners to raise the levels of voluntary compliance with the Dog Act.

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During this period Rangers also issued free dog leads to dog owners found to be walking dogs off lead within the Town of East Fremantle boundaries as part of the educational cautioning process.

Barking Complaints

Rangers have investigated ninety-eight (98) official dog barking complaints, (official complaints involve at least three complainants, two from different residences for each complaint). All of these complaints have now been resolved and closed to the satisfaction of both the complainant and the barking dog's owner.

However, Rangers receive on average three (3) barking dog complaints a week with most resolved by verbal interaction between the owner and a ranger services team member. In general most owners are not aware of the dog's nuisance barking before the Ranger brings the matter to their attention and these extra complaints do not form part of the above recorded figures.

Rangers endeavour to provide the owners of barking dogs with advice and practical help in relation to the many alternatives to enable the owner to successfully modify the animal's behaviour.

The number of barking dog complaints received by Ranger Services is expected to increase each year as larger blocks are subdivided and property lines are drawn closer together and the number of small "house" dogs increase.

Stray/Impounded Dogs

Total dogs collected	81
Returned to owners	59
Total dogs impounded at Shenton Park	22
Dogs reclaimed by owners	15
Dogs unclaimed and re-homed	06
Dogs destroyed	1

Registrations

For financial year 2010 to 2011 a total of 1098 dogs were registered with the Town, with 915 of these dogs being sterilised.

Ranger Services staff conducted an extensive dog registration program, which included conducting a door knock to follow up expired dog registrations, canvassing dog owners in the streets and local parks, and the use of cautionary notices for follow up action.

Fire Breaks

Fire break inspections of all relevant properties were conducted in early November and all the relevant property owners were then advised in writing of the actions required to bring their land into compliance with the requirements of the Bush Fires Act.

A further check of all relevant properties was conducted in the first week of December 2010 with twelve (12) properties requiring attention as they did not comply with the November 30 deadline mandated by State Government.

Twelve (12) properties receiving fire warning notices and all owners ensured that their properties were compliant by the date stated in the cautionary notices.

Bush Fire Act infringement notices were not issued to these twelve (12) property owners as there were verifiable mitigating factors in each case and the owners of each block ensured that their lots were compliant with the Bushfires Act by the date stated on the issued cautionary notice.

Parking

Launching Ramp

Income from the two (2) parking ticket machines located at the Launching Ramp totalled \$120,899.40.

Parking Infringements

In financial year 2010 to 2011, Council raised an amount of \$147,542 in paid parking infringement penalties. This figure does not

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include the penalty fees currently outstanding for infringement notices that are currently on reminder notice, final notice and Fines Enforcement Registry status.

Parking Cautionary Notices

There were a total of three thousand three hundred and forty one (3,341) parking cautionary notices issued by Rangers in the 2010 to 2011 period. The face value of these cautionary notices had they been issued as infringement notices was \$200,460.

Local Laws

As most residents and visitors to the Town are generally unaware of the various Local Laws and penalties applicable within the Town of East Fremantle, Ranger Services employ a policy of “inform rather than infringe” in relation to contraventions of Local Laws.

Rangers issued a total of three hundred and forty one (341) cautions for contraventions of various Local Laws. Upon issuance of each cautionary notice, Rangers advise the offender of the relevant Local Law, the reason for the Local Law and the potential penalties for future contravention of Local Laws.

In all but twenty-one (21) occasions the issuance of the first cautionary notice was sufficient to rectify the contravention within the time frame set by Rangers.

Of the remaining twenty-one (21), these were rectified as soon as practical to do so after the issuance of the cautionary notice, taking into account mitigating factors such as residents inability to comply as a partner was away, in hospital, elderly resident with no immediate family assistance, etc .

In each of these cases Rangers arranged for either a time extension or direct assistance via other Council Departments, voluntary agencies or State Government agencies.

The face value of these cautionary notices if they had been issued as infringement notices was \$34,100.

Litter Act

Rangers issued a total of four hundred and eighteen (418) cautions for contraventions of the Litter Act.

A significant number of these were in relation to white goods being placed on verges during green waste only collections and vice versa.

A rise in the number of contraventions of the Litter Act was noted within the Town each time that a neighbouring council had an authorised waste collection.

Abandoned Vehicles

There were a total of one hundred and twelve (112) cars abandoned within the Town during the 2010 to 2011 period.

Rangers continued the policy commenced during 2004 to 2005 of attempting to locate the owner of vehicles prior to impoundment and advise them of both the penalties/costs of the abandonment and alternatives available to them.

Rangers identified the owners of one hundred and three (103) of these vehicles and advised that should the Rangers be required to impound the vehicles that the owners would then become liable for the cost of impoundment, towing and storage for a minimum amount of \$910.00 and that Council would seek to recover these costs via court action.

Owners were also advised that scrap dealers would generally pay the owner \$40-\$80 and would also arrange to have the vehicle removed at no cost to the owners.

Had Council been required to impound all one hundred and twelve (112) vehicles the cost to Council would have been \$72, 800.

Of the remaining nine (9) vehicles Rangers were able to ascertain that the owners had left Australia and therefore had no choice but to impound and disposed of the vehicles by

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donation to FESA for rescue training purposes.

It should be noted that a significantly large number of the vehicles reported by residents as abandoned vehicles, are in fact found to be owned by neighbouring residents who have gone on holiday or are fly in/fly out workers and who for a variety of reasons choose not park the vehicle outside their own home, but rather park further up the road in front of a neighbour's home.

This problem is extremely prevalent within the Plympton Ward.

Stolen Vehicles

There were a total of eleven (11) stolen vehicles located and recovered by Rangers within the Town during the 2010/2011 period.

Damaged Infrastructure Reports

Rangers recorded and reported eight hundred and forty-eight (848) cases of damage to infrastructure within the Town during the 2010/2011 financial year.

In all cases Rangers notified the appropriate agency such as Main Roads, Western Power, Town of East Fremantle etc in order to ensure that repairs/replacement of the damaged asset was made as soon as possible by the relevant agency.

Town Planning/Private Domain

TOWN PLANNING

The broad objective for Town Planning in the Town of East Fremantle is to provide for the current and future needs of the community in a sustainable manner. This is achieved through the application of Strategic Planning and Development Control functions by the Council.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Strategic Planning involves the analysis of issues and the development of policy and statutory documents which influence the activities of residents, the business community and government agencies now and in the future. During the year the Planning Department reviewed the various existing Local Planning Policies and the provisions of the Town Planning Scheme - Number 3 and proposed a program to update the various planning provisions to respond to current planning objectives and future challenges. This program involved the following:

- **Audit of Local Planning Policies**

The audit identified that over the last thirty four years a total of thirty eight (38) different policies had been adopted relating to statutory planning functions. These represented a myriad of various controls which was complex and confusing for both applicants and assessors and accordingly it was proposed to revoke and consolidate the existing policies wherever possible. Of the policies which it is proposed be retained, these should be re-formatted into a standard format, updated and modified where necessary to avoid conflict and ambiguity in their provisions.

Council resolved that in respect to the existing policies -

1. eighteen (18) of the existing policies should be revoked immediately,
2. eight (8) policies should be retained but with only formatting changes
3. twelve (12) policies should be amended and/or consolidated and the existing policies revoked once

alternative policy provisions have been adopted

- **Adoption of Five New Local Planning Policies**

The above audit showed that there were a number of emerging issues (some of which are fundamental to attaining Council's stated planning objectives and quality development outcomes) – which the existing policies did not address. Accordingly the following new Local Planning Policies were developed and adopted by Council to address these issues:

- Signage
- Noise Abatement for Mixed Use Developments
- Solar Collectors
- George Street Precinct Developer Contributions for the Access and Parking Plan.

- **Development of New Residential Design Guidelines**

In July this year a consultant team was been appointed to develop a comprehensive and integrated residential design guideline policy to incorporate many of the 'single issue' policies identified for consolidation in the above audit and to provide distinct design 'cues' to assist designers and aid in consistent decision making. It is intended that this work will be completed and a new Local Planning Policy adopted, in the first half of 2012.

- **Scheme Amendment No. 9**

Scheme Amendment 9 will make changes to the Scheme to require an application for planning approval for all demolitions and also to increase the extent of minor non-consequential works which are exempt from the need for planning approval. Council adopted the Amendment in June 2011 and is awaiting the Minister's Final Approval of the amendment.

Town Planning/Private Domain

- **Review of Local Planning Strategy and Town Planning Scheme No. 3**

The Town's Planning Scheme No 3 and the Local Planning Strategy which supports it were adopted seven years ago. It is therefore necessary to review and update these principal planning documents for the Town to better address emerging trends and future planning issues. Consultants have been appointed to undertake this project, with an initial report due for Council's consideration in the New Year.

The project comprises the following;

- review of the Town of East Fremantle Town Planning Scheme No 3 Local Planning Strategy ,
- the identification of areas where infill development could be supported in conformity with the Town's planning objectives,
- proposed scheme amendments to support guided infill development in the R12.5 residential zone, and to designate subdivision and plot ratio requirements for developments in the 'Mixed Use' zone.
- the incorporation of various scheme amendments which have occurred since the gazettal of the Scheme in 2004.

- **Town Centre Redevelopment Guidelines**

During the year the planning staff and consultants conducted an extensive community consultation program to identify community aspirations for the future of the Town Centre. Outcomes from the initial concept plan generation and consultation were then translated into a draft Local Planning Policy comprising a Detailed Area Plan and Development Guidelines to facilitate the development of an Activity Centre to revitalise the current Town Centre.

The program included two Community Reference Group meetings, a Public Forum, media releases and updates on

Council website as well as direct mail outs to affected landowners. A total of 138 submissions on the draft Policy were considered when Council adopted the Policy in its final form.

STATUTORY PLANNING

Statutory Planning involves the assessment of development proposals in respect to the Town's statutory planning provisions and (where necessary) enforcement proceedings to require development to occur in compliance with these provisions and Council's planning approvals.

The Planning Department received 257 applications for Planning Approval during the year. This compares with 173 applications in the previous year which is an increase of 48% in the number of applications processed. Similarly, the value of the approved developments for which Building Licences were issued increased from \$14,411,754 in 2009-2010 to \$25, 816,662 in 2010 -2011.

Of the Planning applications received only 16 were either refused or withdrawn.

Council's determinations were appealed to the State Administrative Appeals Tribunal on four occasions during the year. Of these appeals, three were resolved as a result of mediation while Council's decision was upheld in respect to the other appeal.

PLANNING RESOURCES

The Town draws upon both staff, elected members, consultants and community representatives in undertaking the activities identified above.

During the year, Council appointed Jamie Douglas as the Manager Planning Services, Gemma Basley continued as Council's Town Planner, with professional assistance from Peta Cooper and part time assistance from Deborah Elliott, Matt Ryan, and Sharon Reynolds. Mr Mario Ioppolo commenced as Council's Principal Building Surveyor.

Town Planning/Private Domain

Membership of the Town Planning & Building Committee (Private Domain) as at 30 June 2011 consisted of Cr Alex Wilson as Presiding Member, Mayor Alan Ferris, Cr Barry de Jong, Cr Rob Lilleyman, Cr Siân Martin, Cr Maria Rico, Cr Dean Nardi and Cr Cliff Collinson.

The Town Planning Advisory Panel comprised (as at 30 June 2011) Cr Alex Wilson (Chair), Ms Vanessa Collins, Mr Henty Farrar, Mr Nicholas Gurr, Mr David Johnston, Mr Michael Connor, Dr Jonathon Dalitz, Ms Jill Hinde and Ms Pam Walker. The contributions from these voluntary community members and their expertise in respect to design assessment is acknowledged and greatly contributes to the achievement of good design outcomes for new development and the protection of heritage values.

Town Planning/Private Domain

Building

Building Approvals:

Residential Dwellings	25	\$15,133,166
Alterations/Additions	38	8,143,536
Swimming Pools/Spas	19	628,339
Fencing	12	129,044
Patios/Alfresco	32	682,817
Carports/Garages/Sheds/Studios	9	178,765
Roofing	2	96,576
Internal Alterations	2	716,500
Commercial	2	58,000
	<u>141</u>	<u>\$25,816,662</u>

Amended Building Licences 5

Building Certificates 3

Materials on Verge Licences Issued: 13

Demolition Licences Issued: 12

Residences 10

Garages 1

Outbuildings 1

Town Planning

Approval to Commence Development: 262

Approval 154

Delegated Approval 68

Applications Deferred 10

Applications Withdrawn 8

Building Licence Only Required 13

Refusal 8

Planning Approvals Appealed:

Upheld 1

Subdivision

Final Approval 2

Endorsement of Deposited Plan Only 1

Approvals

Residential Dwellings	25	\$14,630,671
Alterations/Additions	62	14,175,947
Fencing	13	80,950
Patios/Alfrescos	37	448,615
Carports/Garages/Sheds/Studios	14	441,665
Swimming Pools/Spas	21	691,444
Solar Panels/Roofing	7	97,700
Commercial	9	4,786,104
Changes of Use	7	
Retrospective Approval	13	
Home Occupation	13	
Demolition	1	
	<u>222</u>	<u>\$35,353,096</u>