

TOWN OF EAST FREMANTLE



ANNUAL REPORT



**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2009**

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:	6,697 (2006 Bureau of Statistics)
Number of dwellings:	3,090
Number of rate assessments:	3,430
Area:	3.2km ²
Area of parks & gardens:	65ha
Location:	25km from Perth GPO
Length of roads:	40km
Annual Operating Expenditure (actual):	\$6,096,196
Rate revenue (actual):	\$4,538,173
Employees:	46
Principal Officers (during the period 2008/09)	
Chief Executive Officer	Stuart Wearne
Executive Manager Finance & Admin	John Roberts
Town Planner	Chris Warrener
Environmental Health Officer	Shelley Cocks
Operations Manager	Pat Garrity
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

Contents

Annual Report 2008/2009

CONTENTS

Town of East Fremantle.....	1
The Town at a Glance.....	2
Mayor & Councillors.....	4
Mayor's Report.....	5-6
Chief Executive Officer's Report.....	7-23
Finance & Administration.....	24-27
Town Planning/Public Domain.....	28-30
Health Services.....	31-45
Town Planning & Building (Private Domain).....	46-48

APPENDIX I

Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

Mayor & Councillors

Mayor & Councillors

(as at 30 June 2009)

Mayor:

2007-2011

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

Councillors:

Plympton Ward

2005-2009

Cr Stefanie **Dobro**
90 King Street
East Fremantle WA 6158
cr.dobro@eastfremantle.wa.gov.au
9339 8775

2007-2011

Cr Dave **Arnold**
88 Hubble Street
East Fremantle WA 6158
cr.arnold@eastfremantle.wa.gov.au
9319 1044

Woodside Ward

2005-2009

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

2007-2011

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

Richmond Ward

2005-2009

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

2007-2011

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

Preston Point Ward

2005-2009

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

2007-2011

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

Mayor's Report

Alan Ferris, Mayor

2008-2009 has again seen some significant changes and challenges for the Town.

The most critical challenge has been the State Government's structural reform agenda for local government. As you will be aware, the State Government is very keen to see a significant reduction in the number of local governments, targeting small local governments in particular and as a consequence the survival of the Town of East Fremantle is again under question.

Following the Minister's announcement, the CEO spent a considerable amount of time researching the relevant issues, reporting to elected members and compiling and providing extensive input into the first stage of the Government's reporting process, the deadline for which was 30 April 2009. As at 30 June the CEO was working on the second phase of the State Government's submission process.

Regardless of the eventual outcome, it is important that the Town continue to progress its vision and plans for the future. As Mayor I continue to work with my fellow Councillors to progress a number of key projects that will have a significant impact on the amenity and vibrancy of the Town.

Those projects include the redevelopment of East Fremantle Oval into a user friendly, accessible space that caters for a number of needs including our seniors, our youth and the EF Football Club.

The Town has a once in a 100 year opportunity to get this development right and improve the facilities and amenity for the community and future communities to enjoy.

Equally the Town Centre is another key project that provides a significant opportunity for the Town to greatly improve on the existing Centre.

It is important that we take such opportunities.

In regard to such tasks, I have been assisted by my fellow elected members. The Town has a very committed and talented group of elected members who collectively are making a significant contribution to the community they serve.

As I reflect on the Town of East Fremantle, its amenities, built environment and people, it is clear the underlying strength lies in the community spirit that exists in our Town. It is at the various community functions I have attended that you realise what strong community spirit exists in our Town.

Supported by this spirit the Town continues to provide excellence service and care to the people in our community, whether it be the Home and Community Care program; run by Sue Limbert, which provides services to assist our elderly residents to remain in their homes, the holiday respite program, or the work of the Glyde-In Community Centre.

Our local sporting and yacht clubs also continue to play an integral role in the social fabric of the Town. The facilities and amenity they offer to the residents are appreciated by everyone and again are run mostly by volunteers. 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 urge you to continue to support and or join one of the many great clubs in our Town.

To the CEO Mr Stuart Wearne and his assistant Ms Janine May thank you for your dedication and commitment to our Town. I would also like to recognise the work the various components of the Council including the works team, Mr Roberts and the finance and administration teams, the health and community services team led by Shelley Cocks and our hard working town planning team.

Mayor's Report

East Fremantle continues to be a great place to live and I thank you for the privilege you have given me in serving you as Mayor of the Town.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Stuart Wearne, Chief Executive Officer

INTRODUCTION

In 2008-2009 Council continued to provide good governance and further improved Council services and facilities.

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

This report deals mainly with the most critical issues are challenges which the Town faced during the 2008-2009 financial year, including issues impacting on the local government sector in general and involving both State and Federal governments.

ISSUES

Left Bank legal action

This matter concerned a longstanding legal dispute regarding lease arrangements pertaining to the "Left Bank". The parties involved were the WA Planning Commission (owner), the Town of East Fremantle (lessee), Lowmond Pty Ltd (sublessee of the "Left Bank") and Left Bank Holdings Pty Ltd (operators of the "Left Bank" and the holders of options related to ongoing lease arrangements).

The dispute began in 1987 and culminated in litigation which commenced in 2000 and became increasingly extensive and complex, both in relation to the legal issues and the number of parties involved.

Council was the first defendant in an action brought by Lowmond Pty Ltd and the WAPC the second defendant.

Council's view was that the dispute primarily involved Lowmond and the WAPC, with Council the "meat in the sandwich".

Nevertheless the matter could not be resolved and was ultimately listed for a 10 day

Supreme Court trial, which was set to commence in early December 2008.

Whilst the matter was initially the subject of Council insurance cover, the insurers withdrew that cover at a point when Lowmond changed their pleadings close to trial and at that stage Council was significantly financially exposed, to the point of serious risk of bankruptcy, had Council lost the case, even in part.

Further, Lowmond had foreshadowed further legal action in the event they were not successful at the initial trial.

It was no exaggeration to say that beyond periodic amalgamation attempts during the Town's existence, the situation represented the gravest threat to Council's survival in its 111 year history.

A huge effort on the part of Council and its solicitors was thus expended on efforts to settle the matter before trial.

This was a very difficult period, with ever increasing demands being made on Council and with no support from the Government. In fact the contrary was the case, as it was always within the power of the WAPC to resolve the issue without a trial or alternatively for the Government to indemnify the Council, which the CEO had sought in representations to the Government.

There were two main implications for Council's functioning in this period. Firstly, many hundreds of hours of the Chief Executive Officer's time, typically involving 7 days a week on numerous occasions, was devoted to the case and this was unfortunately at the expense of many other Council projects and responsibilities. Secondly, because of the enormous financial liability hanging over the Council (ultimately estimated at between approximately \$6 million and \$10 million, not including potential further litigation), it made forward financial planning very difficult.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Settlement was achieved at a marathon mediation which occurred about 48 hours before the trial commenced.

The CEO had earlier met with the Minister for Planning urging for such a settlement to occur.

The terms of settlement are confidential and must remain so, nevertheless it can be said the Town was very happy with the outcome.

Unfortunately the comprehensive terms of settlement gave rise to a number of other legal issues and complex tasks, which continued to be progressed by the CEO and Council's solicitors during 2009 – including beyond 30 June 2009.

Hopefully the Left Bank matter will be finally “signed off” early in 2010.

The “Left Bank” case was the last of three significant legal matters which the CEO inherited when he commenced with Council in 1999 – the other two being the Cornell case and the Aldgate case, which have been dealt with in previous annual reports.

Amalgamation and Regional Cooperation

These important issues have been the subject of comprehensive comment in the CEO's previous Annual Reports.

In my last report I reported on the progress of WALGA's plan for local government reform which had culminated in a major report “The Journey: Sustainability into the Future – Shaping the future of local government in Western Australia”.

I reported that as of 30 June 2008 that Report was still being debated within the local government sector.

Subsequently, in September 2008, following four years of research, analysis and widespread consultation by WALGA with respect to the issue of improving the sustainability of local government in WA

almost every local government in WA (134 for, 5 against) endorsed the Systemic Sustainability Study (SSS) Final Report as the blueprint for a 10 year process of WA local government reform.

Broadly speaking, the SSS plan was based on the premise of participation, by those local governments which chose to do so, in regionally based organisational structures which were designed to achieve improved economic sustainability through resource sharing and other cooperative reform measures, whilst ensuring no loss of autonomy and local community engagement. Significantly the plan was underpinned by a strong position of no forced amalgamations. This was based on WALGA's research findings which indicated that amalgamations were frequently not “the answer” to improving the financial sustainability of local governments. Further, WALGA concluded *forced* amalgamations had even more deficiencies, including, as WALGA President Bill Mitchell stated:

“For any sustainability improvements to be implemented and maintained in the longer term there has to be local community support, which requires a voluntary process.”

It is significant that the South West Group (Melville, East Fremantle, Fremantle, Cockburn, Kwinana and Rockingham), in supporting the SSS Plan, noted that the fundamental model and objectives matched those of the Group, which was at that time in the process of seeking a State Government grant with respect to commissioning research into a model of appropriately shared services with respect to member councils.

It is also significant that, prior to the 2008 State election, all of the major political parties in WA; including the Liberal Party, the Labor Party, the Nationals and the Greens, committed their support to the Plan and specifically declared their opposition to forced amalgamations.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

This led to WALGA President Cr Bill Mitchell announcing:

“Local Government in Western Australia now has the opportunity to pursue long term sustainability without the threat of forced amalgamation”.

Following the election, the newly appointed Minister for Local Government, Mr Castrilli, reiterated the government's commitment, stating *“our position is of no forced amalgamations”.*

Further, one of the Minister's first decisions following his appointment and which he announced via his personal newsletter and various media outlets, was to form a joint State and local government committee, the “Local Government Sustainability Joint Working Committee”, to review the WALGA's Sustainability Report and to “consider and progress the agreed actions as contained in the SSS Report”.

The Minister stated in October 2008:

“The State Government is committed to working in partnership with local governments to achieve shared desired outcomes.”

“The committee's first task will be to provide me with strategic recommendations of how the 39 (SSS) recommendations might be implemented...(the) WALGA report shows (local government) how they can best strengthen their performance and become more sustainable in the future.”

At the same time the Minister again reiterated the government's position of no forced amalgamations.

On 3 December 2008 the Minister *advised Parliament* that the Committee “will use the SSS report as the basis for their work...” and would deliver a final report to him in December 2009.

However on 5 February 2009 WALGA President, Cr Mitchell announced:

“The State Government today promised it would break an election promise on no forced amalgamation of local governments if councils failed to ‘voluntarily’ put forward plans to merge in six months.”

Bill Mitchell also stated, in reference to the Minister's claims regarding this being a “voluntary process”, *“these are weasel words at best”.*

On that date the Minister had made a number of pronouncements.

- (i) The number of local governments in Western Australia was “not sustainable” and he wanted “voluntary amalgamations” in order to “cut their numbers”.
- (ii) Local governments would have six months to inform him of their decision regarding voluntarily amalgamating, otherwise he would *legislate* to force local government amalgamations.
- (iii) The remaining councils would be expected to reduce their total number of elected members to between six and nine.
- (iv) “The benefits of amalgamations across the state, *including metropolitan Perth*, will be very significant.”
- (v) “Increased competition for “(the remaining)” staff positions within the sector will be a welcome change from the present situation.”
- (vi) To oversee the implementation of the process the Minister would establish a Local Government Reform Steering Committee.

The Minister made specific reference in his announcement to the number of *small* local governments which currently operated in Western Australia and, as indicated above,

Chief Executive Officer's Report

made specific reference to “metropolitan Perth”.

Mr Castrilli stated:

“If councils do not amalgamate there will be legislation. If you don't want to do it, I'll do it, as simple as that”.

Further, when asked whether a Council (with the implication being a *small* council which the Minister wished to see amalgamated) could continue to exist if it clearly demonstrated it was sustainable, the Minister immediately said “no”. Perhaps realising the lack of logic in this remark, given the exercise was meant to be about financial sustainability, not to mention the clear suggestion of a predetermined outcome, the Minister then qualified his remark with “There will have to be a lot of good reasons why it should stay on its own”.

In other words it was clearly indicated that small local governments would be the primary target for amalgamations, regardless of financial viability and regardless of whether they wish to amalgamate or not.

The Minister's announcement, which was without prior discussion with WALGA, was received by WALGA and the local government sector generally, with widespread dismay.

There was not only the ethical issue of a broken commitment by the Government.

The Minister did not provide the basis of his claim that there are too many local governments (and too many elected members) in WA. If it was because he had identified some existing local governments as being financially unsustainable, the Minister should have stated the basis of that identification, if not *which* local governments and *why*. If it was because the Minister believed bigger local governments are *automatically* more sustainable, the Minister should have provided the basis for this view.

If it was because the Government believes extensive amalgamations will somehow save the government money, this Minister should have explained how.

In addition to clarifying the above matters, the Minister should have explained the basis of his conclusion that in respect of financial sustainability, “bigger is better”, when extensive research, at both a national and international level, had concluded that there was no clear evidence that larger local governments were automatically more sustainable.

If the Minister believed otherwise, then the Minister should have explained why, despite large scale amalgamations in Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and NSW, between 25% and 48% of local governments in those States; some big some small, some the result of amalgamations and some not, are currently classed as financially unsustainable.

In South Australia for example, 116 councils were reduced by amalgamations to 68, after the Government blankly stated it wanted numbers to be roughly halved, which, as indicated above, is the same as the outcome the WA Minister is understood to be seeking. Yet when those 68 councils were subsequently subjected to the Government's own sustainability test, 33 of the 68 (48%) were concluded to be unsustainable in the long term.

The most recent State to undertake amalgamations has been Queensland. Also breaking a “no forced amalgamations” commitment and also announced without warning, extensive forced amalgamations were carried out by the Queensland government in August 2007, when 156 local governments were reduced by amalgamation to 72, ie roughly halved. Again the stated purpose was to achieve financially sustainable larger local governments. Yet in November 2008, a report by the Queensland Treasury Corporation into the financial state of those 72 local governments, found that simply

Chief Executive Officer's Report

amalgamating councils had little impact on long term financial sustainability outcomes and that financial performance was impacted more by a council's policy choices, decision making, degree of good governance and management oversight, than by its size or structure.

Also with respect to the issue of amalgamation and financial sustainability, Professor Brian Dollery, Director of the Centre for Local Government at the University of New England and the most published academic on local government reform in Australia, has written:

“Since councils in all jurisdictions still have acute financial problems, it is obvious that amalgamation has not proved to be a “cure-all” for the financial ills of local governments. Quite the opposite is true. WA local councils are in no worse shape than their amalgamated counterparts in other States. Indeed, the Price Waterhouse Coopers report could find no systematic differences in financial sustainability between the States, regardless of the degree of council amalgamations which had taken place. We must thus question the proposition that “bigger is always better” in local government since it cannot account for observed trends in local government finances. Put differently, why has amalgamation failed to improve financial sustainability where it has been tried?”

Scott Lennon, the author of the highly respected and influential 2006 Price Waterhouse Cooper National Financial Sustainability Study of Local Government, warned that amalgamations were generally not the answer to problems of local government financial sustainability and noted:

“Mergers are fairly painful for communities and they often don't yield savings of any huge significance.

Putting two unviable councils together, particularly in rural and remote parts,

can just make one larger, even less viable council.”

Mr Lennon went on to say there were other approaches local government could take to improve economies of scale, such as forming or strengthening regional alliances for shared procurement and service delivery.

In the Town of East Fremantle's case it should be noted the Town was a key instigator of the formation of the South West Group “regional grouping of councils” 25 years ago, which became a model for similar organisational structures across Australia.

Professor Dollery has concluded that the doctrine of “bigger is cheaper” could not be sustained on conceptual or empirical grounds and that a better case could be made for local government to share the provision of services rather than to amalgamate.

Professor Dollery has written:

“An important foundation for the view that bigger is better rests on the belief that economies of scale exist in local government service provision. It is argued that bigger councils can thus provide services at lower costs than their smaller counterparts.

But modern local councils provide a large number of different services. Some of these services exhibit significant scale economies, most notably domestic water provision, IT services and regional economic development activities. However, many other services, especially human services, do not have economies of scale. In fact, there is evidence that most local services show diseconomies of scale at relatively low levels...

Hard-won experience in other states has demonstrated that amalgamation is not only expensive to implement but that it also typically robs small communities of effective representation. This means that small communities often suffer in terms

Chief Executive Officer's Report

of service provision relative to their bigger cousins with larger populations.

A much better alternative is to select local services that can be provided more cheaply through shared service arrangements, outsourcing, statewide networks and the like. This avoids the costs of diseconomies of scale in other service areas and preserves vital political representation for people living in smaller communities."

Together with fellow researchers, Crase & Johnson, Professor Dollery has concluded that:

"there is now widespread recognition that one size does not fit all in local governance, and that the tremendous diversity evident among Australian local authorities...demands a range of solutions to ongoing problems of inefficiency in service delivery rather than continued confidence in amalgamations with its misplaced belief that "bigger is always better".

Elsewhere these authors, in referring to the diversity amongst Australian local governments, write:

"What works in one community may well fail in another, given the substantial divergence in available resources, physical area, population and other salient characteristics. Particular municipalities also have different requirements, different levels of services, different abilities to implement policies, different skills, different organisational cultures, different revenue-raising opportunities, different cost structures, and different levels of service expectations from their residents...In essence, because decisions affect different municipal authorities in different ways, it is critical that local voices shape these decisions."

In summary, following extensive research and in a range of published papers, numerous

researchers have made a persuasive argument that shared service arrangements for selected local government services are generally a better option than council amalgamations. It has also been noted that the transformation costs are much lower. Researchers such as Professor Dollery believe that issues such as how a local government uses its land, the partnerships which it forms and the decisions it makes with respect to what services it will or won't provide, are far more critical to good community and financial outcomes than the mere size of the council.

Further, these represent only examples of the *economic* argument.

Professor Dollery (not to mention a number of other researchers) is also very conscious of the wider *social* issues, ie that resource sharing approaches enable local governments to realise economic efficiencies in selected services, whilst still maintaining their autonomy and current degree of community representation.

Elsewhere Dollery and others have noted that the regionally based shared services model also appears better able to accommodate the varied needs of different communities.

Thus, Dollery, Crase & Johnson conclude that Regional Organisations of Councils:

"based on voluntary and not compulsory arrangements, may not only capture any benefits that can flow from joint service delivery and coordination, as well as foster a spirit of cooperation between neighbouring councils, but also avoid the inevitable bitterness and expense of forced amalgamation. Where economies of scale and economies of scope can be identified, these could be harnessed much more effectively through voluntary cooperation and good neighbourliness than through forced mergers imposed by state governments."

Professor Dollery has noted that almost no empirical research has been undertaken with

Chief Executive Officer's Report

respect to the economic effects of amalgamation in Australian local government and strongly suspects this is deliberate on the part of the state governments involved. He believes this was because the respective State governments had all claimed beforehand that significant financial benefits would result from their forced amalgamation policies however would be aware, following the amalgamations, of the highly likely possibility this has not eventuated.

Professor Dollery is backed by other academics, such as Professor Stephen Jones of the University of Queensland Business School, who has comprehensively reviewed the amalgamations process which occurred in Queensland in 2007 who writes that the Minister should:

"...learn from Victorian amalgamations in the late 1990s, where there have been no demonstrable improvements to service as a result of economies of scale.

Research had shown that there was no systematic relationship between the size of a council and its economic efficiency, (and) if councils were to be restructured it should be done so on the basis of performance, not size.

A rational argument would be one where councils that can show they work effectively, including on regional projects, should be left unscathed...."

Notwithstanding both the lack of research and evidence to the contrary, the Minister has maintained his claim there *will* be significant savings produced by amalgamations. The Minister has stated *"a reduction in the number of councils coupled with a rationalisation in the number of elected councillors has the potential to save ratepayers millions of dollars per year"*.

In that event, the Minister should state the basis of this claim. This is particularly the case given that in another press comment the Minister admitted that *"there has not been an estimate of the costs nor the savings that*

would result. Each Council would make that determination in their consideration of voluntary amalgamation". The Minister should also state what the actual savings were in States where amalgamations have occurred.

For example, it was originally claimed that South Australian amalgamations would produce savings of 17.4%, whilst actual savings were found, at best, to be 2.3%.

In Victoria, the Kennet Government claimed their program of forced amalgamations would yield direct cost savings of 20%, yet the subsequent net result was only 8.5% and even then almost all of those savings were found to be due to other measures introduced at the same time, in particular competitive tendering and contracting out. Further as Dollery, Crase & Johnson have stated:

"these net cost savings do not take into account the indirect costs of forced amalgamation, such as increased unemployment, lower economic activity and a loss of services, which often threaten the very existence of small communities."

Overseas the situation is little different.

In Britain an assessment of the economic benefits of forced amalgamations could find "little visible benefits" after more than a decade.

Research in Canada (particularly involving Quebec and Ontario) has produced similar conclusions.

In the US, evidence suggested that "larger local government jurisdictions appear to be associated with proportionately higher spending than smaller ones".

In WA, the Western Subregional Organisation of Councils (WESROC) – the western suburbs equivalent of the South West Group - commissioned a comprehensive study into the benefits of amalgamating the member councils

Chief Executive Officer's Report

last year, however the study found that any savings from such a move were doubtful.

However even if there *were* some savings, and leaving aside disadvantages such as losses of community representation and engagement, what of the cost of implementing amalgamations?

The Queensland State Government has already been forced to provide councils across the State with millions of dollars to meet the cost of its forced amalgamations, with even members of the WA Government recently predicting the final figure might reach \$200 million.

However Mr Castrilli has made it clear there is unlikely to be such support from the WA State Government.

The Minister has stated that because the process is "voluntary":

"Money spent on local government reform should be viewed as an investment not a cost, much in the same way as money spent on roads and other infrastructure...money being invested in this process will, in the long term, be returned many times over as increased efficiencies and reform is implemented."

Despite indicating he would, nevertheless, review the funding situation after the "evaluation phase", in the current period of a 3% public sector "efficiency drive", it seems unlikely any government funding will be provided in the foreseeable future. In that event it will be ratepayers who must meet the costs.

The above comments are based on research undertaken by the CEO, which the Mayor has referred to in his report.

One of the obvious conclusions with respect to the Town's financial sustainability was that the Town is *not* reliant on the relatively small Federal and State government grants which it receives and could in fact "manage" without

them, unfair as this might be, however could do so if this was what it would take to avoid an unfair forced amalgamation.

In 2008-09 the Town received \$193,883 from the Federal Government (\$132,592 for General Purpose funding and \$61,291 for roads) and \$29,556 from the State (for roads).

The total of \$223,439 can be compared with rate revenue of \$4,539,469.

The grants thus represent only 4.92% of total revenues.

In other words, without the grants, for the same income, rates would need to have been marginally increased, ie by 4.92%, meaning, in the case of current residential rate of 7.57 cents in the dollar, from 7.57 cents to 7.94 cents in the dollar.

It is noteworthy how little government funding the Town of East Fremantle receives from the State.

These comments would apply to many local governments in WA.

Yet from the way in which the Minister has sought to justify his current intervention, an outsider might conclude that WA local governments generally, are surviving on significant handouts from the State.

Other research, not reported above, included the significant role of the development industry in the Minister's push for local government amalgamations and the highly questionable argument that fewer yet larger local governments would improve the State and Federal lobbying capacity of those remaining local governments.

Other research indicated there was no correlation between local government size and good governance, in fact from the pattern of local government corruption inquiries in recent years, all involving large local

Chief Executive Officer's Report

governments, the contrary argument could be put.

Following the above research, the CEO commenced compiling the large amount of information which the Government required as the first stage of its review process. This was submitted by the due date of 30 April 2009, after which work began on the next body of information required by the Government. This was to be a submission which addressed a number of questions set by the Government. Essentially the process involved the Town justifying its continued existence.

In the CEO's 30 April report, which was endorsed by Council it was concluded as follows:

- (i) There appears no *obvious* need, or other reason, for East Fremantle to amalgamate. The Town is considered to be *financially* sustainable in the long term (and has twice, relatively recently, been objectively assessed as such), *socially* sustainable and whilst there are *environmental* sustainability issues, these will exist regardless of any local government boundary configuration.
- (ii) There is no *obvious* benefit to the East Fremantle community for East Fremantle to amalgamate.
- (iii) 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 Council's rate income away from the East Fremantle community. Because East Fremantle is almost entirely residential and almost entirely developed, this could be a significant attraction. However this in itself would obviously be a disbenefit to the East Fremantle community. Nevertheless East Fremantle would be a "high valuation/high value" prize in an acquisition environment.
- (iv) With respect to financial sustainability measures, the Town:

- is on the "minimum grant"
- has a debt servicing ratio below 3% (the State local government average is 5.21%)
- raises 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, does expect:
 - (a) Leeuwin Barracks will eventually be sold, giving rise to significant development opportunities and financial benefits for the Town (Leeuwin Barracks of course currently pays no rates)
 - (b) similar, if less significant outcomes will flow from the inevitable redevelopment of the Town Centre (currently stalled due to the global economic downturn)

The CEO had nevertheless already commissioned an independent report with respect to the Town's financial sustainability, from Access Economics (who carried out the original financial assessment of the Town of East Fremantle and a number of other local governments for the SSS report).

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

There are no significant social problems in the community – for example there is low unemployment and relatively low crime rates. The Town does not generate a high demand on State and Federal Government services. In fact (through Church based providers, who pay no rates) the Town contains more than its share, on a per capita basis, of aged and disabled care services and also exports its HACC services, which it provides directly, to surrounding local government areas.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

There are some outstanding challenges of a capital nature, eg the restoration of the Town Hall and the implementation of the East Fremantle Oval Master Plan, however all local governments face such challenges and, it must be said, all State and Federal Governments.

(No one is suggesting the State Government should amalgamate because they can't carry out all of the capital projects which they would like to implement, at this time.)

- (vi) With respect to environmental sustainability, the Town has been an active player and whilst every local government in Australia could always do more in this regard, the current debate is less to do with funding and more to do with obtaining the optimal environmental benefits from what funds Council does have available.

The above outcomes were not achieved by chance. The above outcomes are the result of good governance by successive councils of elected members and staff over the last 112 years.

Land and property values in East Fremantle are high because the Town is recognised as having high amenity. In part this is due to natural attributes (eg proximity to the river) however in the main it is a result of good town planning and genuine community engagement with respect to community priorities and Council decision making.

In that regard the size of the Town has worked in its favour, by assisting elected members and Council officers to "know" their Town and genuinely engage with the community.

East Fremantle exists as a clearly identifiable community of interest, with a good sense of local identity and a high level of community cohesion. These are matters not easily surveyed in a Minister's *Checklist*.

The Town doesn't *rely* on its neighbours – it pays its way. Large numbers (often a

majority) of the members of the numerous sporting clubs and other organisations which operate in the Town come from outside the Town of East Fremantle. The Town fully contributes to the joint East Fremantle/Fremantle library and the SMRC. It pays more than its share, on a per capita basis, to be a member of the South West Group.

In short there appears a genuine case for applying the "if it ain't broke don't fix it" maxim to the situation, and combining this fact with the fact there is no discernable demand from the community for change (in fact the opposite has always been the case) it is concluded the Minister would benefit more from directing his energies to the 73 local governments which are smaller than East Fremantle and in particular to those local governments which have already been identified as having long term financial viability issues.

As various external forces increasingly impact on local communities, the right of citizens to have the opportunity to influence matters in their local neighbourhood becomes even more paramount and must be strongly protected.

This is a cornerstone of a democratic and healthy society. It is essential to community wellbeing.

Thus local government exists to not only provide physical services to their communities, but also to provide effective avenues of community participation and community representation.

There is consequently justifiable concern that these critical elements will not receive sufficient weight, if any weight at all, in the Minister's pursuit of his ideologically driven, economically based, "bigger is better" amalgamation agenda.

The model advocated in the SSS Report, which received the support of almost every local government in Western Australia, *does*

Chief Executive Officer's Report

recognise this issue and aims to maintain effective local political representation, whilst delivering improved efficiencies of service delivery, through a range of regional cooperation based options.

Effective reform in the local government sector is not achieved through unilateral directives by Ministers and Governments. It is achieved by genuine consultation and mutual cooperation between the sector and the communities which it represents.

It is not too late for this to occur.

In conclusion, it was regrettable that with the Left Bank issue finally resolved, which should have allowed work on a number of outstanding Council issues to recommence, the Town was almost immediately confronted with another major task which had been externally imposed upon it, which was to similarly divert much time and energy on the part of Council's officers and elected members, time and energy which would have been better spent addressing genuine local community concerns and issues.

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 agenda".

In the last report 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 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, as at 30 June 2008 little had changed following the report.

I noted that, historically, councils primarily provided essential services to properties such as access roads (hence many local governments commenced as Roads Boards), crossovers and rubbish collection.

Yet these days councils have taken on responsibility for a large array of other services including (in East Fremantle's case) recreational and sporting facilities, a library service, aged care services and facilities, a boat launching ramp, jetties and mooring pens, public car parks, health services, playgroups and other children's services, the promotion of physical activity, environmental services, noise control, Council housing, recycling and waste management services, community crime prevention, emergency management, animal welfare, adult learning centres (eg Glyde-In), arts (eg Royal George Arts & Community Centre), community events (eg East Fremantle Festival), river foreshore erosion control (including compliance with Native Title consultation requirements) and heritage protection.

Many of these responsibilities have been devolved onto local government by State and Federal agencies, with little or no financial or any other compensatory arrangements to assist local government in meeting these increased responsibilities.

Compounding the problem had been significant funding cuts in areas where financial support *is* received, such as Federal road grants, with this occurring against a

Chief Executive Officer's Report

background of significant increases in costs in other areas such as recycling and waste management.

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.

Hence I reported the time was well overdue for both State and Federal governments to recognise the ever increasing role of the underfunded local government sector and the funding needed by the local government sector to carry out that role and remain viable. I also strongly suggested (and repeat above) that amalgamating financially unsustainable local governments was no solution, particularly with the alleged savings largely illusory, according to the most credible research. The only alternatives were for local government to either continue to increase rates to meet the costs of the additional services (at the risk of adverse public and press comment), and/or to increase other fees and charges, and/or to cut back on services, and/or to continue to defer adequately providing for its infrastructure backlog in matters such as drainage replacement, road and footpath resurfacing etc.

The Town thus maintains its call for 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.

Without a fairer taxation system local government cannot do what it does best – which is to serve the needs of its local community.

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 this need.

Town Hall/Old Police Station Restoration

The estimated cost of fully restoring and refitting both of these State listed buildings is \$2-3 million. In terms of external funding, in the last several years Council has only managed to obtain a Lotterywest grant of \$30,000 towards these works. It is an indictment of the State's attitude to State heritage conservation that more funds are not available to assist local governments which seek to "do the right thing" by conserving their heritage buildings – which is not just for the benefit of their particular communities but also for the State as a whole.

It had been hoped it might be possible, through borrowings, to commence the restoration in 2008-09.

However until December 2008, the potential financial situation of Council arising from the Left Bank legal action, as discussed above, placed this project and a number of others on hold, particularly where Council borrowings was an issue. Further, as also discussed above, from early February 2009, following Council's January recess, the focus, regrettably, was forcibly switched to the Government's extensive requirements in relation to their amalgamation based "reform" agenda.

Royal George Hotel Restoration

This matter is primarily the responsibility of the National Trust, as the owners of the building. However Council views itself as being in partnership with the Trust and this project – costed at approximately \$4 million – is another major challenge, firstly in terms of how the project is to be funded without compromising the ultimate objective of community benefit and secondly in terms of avoiding compromising the heritage qualities

Chief Executive Officer's Report

of this heritage jewel and iconic East Fremantle landmark.

At 30 June 2009 Council was in receipt of a revised development application from the National Trust, which was proceeding to be assessed with various matters arising from that assessment being clarified with the applicant or subject to further information being sought.

Dovenby

Work was completed on the landscaping and irrigation of the surrounds of this magnificent heritage building – a former gatehouse of the Woodside estate which included the mansion which became Woodside Hospital. Council had earlier saved the building from demolition and after transporting the building from Allen Street to its current site had overseen a comprehensive restoration, with the assistance of significant grants from Lotterywest and the Health Department of WA which the CEO had successfully negotiated.

“Dovenby” operates as the administration centre of the Town’s Home & Community Care Program and is thus a valuable Council community asset, in addition to being a testament to Council’s aspirations and values with respect to conserving its local heritage properties and an example to other owners of heritage properties in the Town.

East Fremantle Oval Precinct Master Plan

Council commissioned this plan with the objective of determining the best possible land uses of the site (which is the area bounded by Marmion, Moss, Fletcher and Allen Streets). Whilst the instigating factor was financial issues concerning the impecunious East Fremantle Football Club, and the resulting long standing subsidy of the Club by Council, the situation provided a good opportunity to review the whole site in terms of improving existing facilities, establishing new facilities and improving the public amenity of the Precinct generally. Comprehensive community consultation was

carried out in the course of the Master Plan process, which had still been underway as at 30 June 2008, when this matter was last reported on.

Subsequently, in September 2008, Council resolved as follows:

“That:

- 1. Council receive the Report and receive the Master Plan as a guide to future development of the East Fremantle Oval Precinct and authorise the CEO to take the necessary action to seek the return of that portion of the current reserve bounded by Marmion Street and extending on the Moss Street and Allen Street boundaries to a depth in the order of 70m from the Marmion Street frontage.*
- 2. the Report be made publicly available on the proviso that the public is made aware the Report has not been formally adopted by Council in its entirety but rather is being used as a guide to future action with respect to the development of the East Fremantle Oval Precinct.”*

Implementation of the above resolution required, in the first instance, an approach by Council officers to the WA Planning Commission regarding the recommended course of action necessary to achieve the rezoning of that part of the reserve referred to in the first part of the motion, from A Class Reserve to an alternative zoning, most likely Mixed Use. Such rezoning ultimately requires an Act of Parliament and in political terms, such is the protected status of A Class reserves, bilateral support.

It is a delicate and time consuming exercise, which requires the cooperation and support of various government agencies, and in particular the WAPC.

Unfortunately, as indicated above, the Town was involved in litigation at the time which

Chief Executive Officer's Report

involved the WAPC effectively acting in an adversarial role against Council. Further, it was at this very time that a State election was called and with the Government in caretaker mode, it was indicated to the CEO that it would be inappropriate to open discussion on the matter with the WAPC at that time.

This was the background to the situation when the last Electors' Meeting was held on 11 December 2008.

Almost all electors in attendance at that meeting indicated opposition to any rezoning or reduction in size of the A Class reserve and supported a motion that "this meeting calls on Council to rescind the authorisation given to the CEO".

In the CEO's subsequent report to Council, in February 2009, the CEO reported in part:

The motion itself was problematic in that it only referred to rescinding the authorisation given to the CEO (perhaps the mover's main concern) rather than suggesting, for example, any other plan of action. It might also be noted that the original Council decision did not even refer to the selling off of any land but rather the return of the land to Council (noting the relevance of Council's early gift of a larger area of "oval" land along Allen Street to the State in the 1950's).

Having said this it is true to say the sale or lease of the land was envisaged in the Master Plan. However given the Plan had not been adopted by Council but was, rather, only approved for use as a guide, the authority granted to the CEO was thus only to facilitate discussions with the State Government regarding the possibility of the land being deleted from the reserve and transferred to Council ownership, with the proceeds of any subsequent sale or leasing of all or part of the land being received by Council, not the State Government. In other

words to confirm whether it was an option or not.

Had the State Government declined to support such a proposal, Council could then have reviewed the situation in the light of that information. Even if the State Government supported the option, the CEO would still need to report back to Council and Council would need to decide what it wished to do next, which would include the issue of public consultation.

At the meeting the CEO also reported on recent discussions held with representatives of the WAFC at which the possibility was raised of a staged master plan, involving a number of other ovals and WAFL football clubs, being put to the Government for their support and financial assistance.

In fact at that time it was suggested that the East Fremantle Oval Precinct Master Plan be temporarily put on hold whilst this option was pursued, as there were significant potential benefits for the Council in this plan.

The ultimate outcome at the February meeting was that elected members resolved as follows:

"That the CEO:

- (i) commence necessary discussions on the funding options for this project including discussions with the Government/Government Departments*
- (ii) review funding options used in other "like" developments."*

Between this meeting (February 2009) and June 30 2009, discussions did take place with representatives of WAFC and the Department of Sport & Recreation – however indications from both parties were that no funding to assist with the project could be expected from either agency and nor could they point to other possible sources of funding.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Further, it appeared, the WAFC's own Master Plan concept had stalled – probably in the light of the global financial crisis and subsequent State Government efficiency drive and funding cuts.

Ultimately, the project was, regrettably, forced to be largely put aside due to competing demands, in particular the Government local government reform reporting requirements, as referred to above.

Recently however the Mayor has initiated a Working Party involving various relevant parties, with the objective of further progressing the matter.

Town Centre

Together with many residents, and as indicated by the Mayor, Council is very keen for 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 is limited with respect to its influence on achieving this goal as none of the area involved is Council land.

I previously reported that extensive discussions had taken place with two separate developers regarding their respective redevelopment concepts, however in each case, for reasons which were associated with the developing global financial crisis and associated financing issues, their plans did not proceed.

No development proposals were received in the 2008-09 financial year.

As the economic situation further improves however, it is expected further redevelopment plans will inevitably be received.

The situation is however complicated by the existence of multiple owners and although the litigation itself has ended, the outcome of earlier extensive litigation between the two major land holders.

Meanwhile, at the urging of Council officers, the current major owners of the site have undertaken a range of maintenance and other improvement works, which has at least significantly helped improve the amenity of this area.

Traffic

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 planned for the 2008-09 financial year, involving Preston Point Road, had to be deferred for a combination of technical and (external) funding reasons, all of which were beyond Council's control. As of 30 June 2009 work was proceeding on revising the project to address those issues.

Safety & Crime

Whilst crime is recognised as primarily a state government/police matter, Council does what it can to assist at a local level.

Council 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 – 30 years ago – and only the second in the State.

Council also supports the work of the Community Policing Committee led by longstanding local government stalwart Laurie Humphries.

To further enhance these initiatives during 2008-09 the Town and the State Government signed a partnership agreement, involving the WA Police Service, other State Government agencies and the Town of East Fremantle and designed to enhance community safety and crime prevention in the Town.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Swan River Foreshore Erosion 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.

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

Climate Change

Through the SMRC, Council is an active participant in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Abatement Program which has undertaken a number of initiatives, the most recent being the running of the Living Smart course (designed to teach participants how to save water and energy) and the Climate Actions project (advising businesses in how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions).

Whilst it could be argued that anything which Council can achieve in this area is almost irrelevant in terms of what needs to be achieved nationally and internationally to help reverse global warming, Council's view is that local government needs to lead by example, with that example role applying to both local residents and State and Federal governments.

Physical Activity

Council continues to be active in promoting physical activity not only through its assistance to the extraordinary range of sports in the Town (given East Fremantle is such a small local government) which Council supports: croquet, bowls, football (WAFL and

junior), senior and junior soccer, tennis, cricket (senior and junior), lacrosse, rowing and two yacht clubs. Council has also promoted walking and cycling in the Town, through the installation of new bench seating, bike racks, signs, upgrade of walking trails such as the Niergarup Track and the promotion of walking groups.

Council also has a very active program of upgrading and maintaining children's playgrounds eg John Tonkin Park, Ulrich Park, Stratford Street Park, Glasson Park and Sumpton Green.

As of 30 June 2009, work was proceeding with respect to a major upgrade of Lee Park.

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 clubs and community based organisations in the Town.

The clubs and organisations 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.

However balancing this *provision* of a range of recreational, sporting and community facilities and events (such as the wonderful East Fremantle Festival) with the *cost* of operating and maintaining those facilities and services is not always easy. Council will continue to deal with any issues in a fair and equitable manner. Council recognises the

Chief Executive Officer's Report

significant benefit such clubs and organisations bring to the East Fremantle community and to the members involved and does all it can to help these clubs and organisations thrive.

An example is the significant funding which Council granted the East Fremantle Lawn Tennis Club during the 2008-09 financial year, towards a major upgrade of their facility.

Another example has been the considerable assistance which Council offered the Fremantle Spirit Soccer Club to relocate in the Town.

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.

Council's Mayor Alan Ferris has continued to perform his role with much skill and enthusiasm and has welded an extraordinarily harmonious and hardworking team.

That team: Deputy Mayor Cr Stefanie Dobro, Cr Alex Wilson, Cr Richard Olson, Cr Maria Rico, Cr Dave Arnold, Cr Barry de Jong, Cr Cliff Collinson and Cr Dean Nardi deserve to be applauded for their hard work, commitment, teamwork and vision 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 governments, 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 John Roberts, Chris Warrener,

Shelley Cocks, Pat Garrity, Sue Limbert and *all* of their respective 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 various difficulties, 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.

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

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.

Finance

John Roberts, Executive Manager Finance & Administration

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

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

Plan for the Future of the District

The Town of East Fremantle last updated its Plan for the Future in 2008 to cover a ten year period from 2008 to 2017. The highlights of the current Plan are as follows:

- elimination of all current debt by 2015;
- funding of future infrastructure works from Council's own resource funding;
- provision of a plant replacement program provided through annual cash reserve transfers from Council's own resource funding;
- annual funding allocations for:
 - roadworks
 - footpath improvements
 - kerbing replacement
 - drainage improvements.

The Plan will be reviewed during 2009/2010 and updated to cover the period to 2018/2019.

A copy of the current plan can be obtained from the Council's website or Administration Centre.

Financial Sustainability

In 2006 the Town of East Fremantle engaged Access Economics to undertake a study into the financial sustainability of the town. In May 2009 Access Economics updated their review and their findings which concluded that "overall our assessment is that currently the Town's finances are "sustainable" and comfortably so. The Town's finances have generally improved over the last 3 years". The report also noted "By our estimates the Town is now not only meeting annual renewals as they fall due but are also undertaking rehabilitation of those assets where renewal was deferred

2008/2009 Annual Budget

The Town of East Fremantle's 2008-2009 Budget was adopted at a Special Council meeting held on Tuesday 9 July 2008.

The 2008/2009 balanced budget provided for a number of significant items for the benefit of the community including:

- Completion of George St roadworks \$83,690
- Preston Point Rd traffic management works \$440,793
- Silas St resurfacing \$93,300
- Footpath works \$296,683
- Drainage works \$289,400
- Pier St limestone protection works \$50,000
- Upgrade of council buildings \$91,000
- Lee Park upgrade \$55,000

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

Finance

three green waste collections continue to be provided annually.

Support was continued to be provided for community services such as the Glyde-In Centre (\$65,000); Infant Health Clinic; Community Midwifery Program and Council's Home and Community Care services.

Council budgeted for an overall rate income increase of 5% for residential and commercial rates.

Annual Financial Statements

The Annual Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2009 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 Audit Report was presented to Council at its meeting held on the 20 October 2009. A copy of the Audited Financial Statement is included at the end of this document.

Operating Statement

The Operating Statement shows a surplus of \$912,801 compared with budgeted surplus of \$607,227. The increase in the operating surplus can be attributed to additional income from rates, fines and penalties and a number of projects deferred to 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 2009 shows a surplus of \$4,009,989. This includes Restricted Cash and Reserves funds of some \$2,770,357 held by Council (see note 3 of the Annual Financial Statement) for the future 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 2007/2008 financial year Financial Position Statement to the 2008/2009 year is represented by the operating surplus of \$912,801.

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 2008/2009 year was \$259,783 and included \$70,090 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 2006/2007 financial year, 2007/2008 financial year and the 2008/2009 financial year. The ratios include:-

	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07
Current Ratio equals Purpose: To assess adequacy of working capital and the ability to satisfy short term obligations. <i>The figures shows a decrease in the current equity which is mainly due to the reduction on the payments for Underground Power project.</i>	1.42	1.70	2.03
Debt Ratio equals Purpose: To identify exposure to debts by measuring the proportion of assets funded by creditors. <i>The figures show a reduction in the debts outstanding which is</i>	11.79%	12.27%	12.92%

Finance

	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07
<i>mainly due to the Underground Power project loans outstanding.</i>			
Debt Service Ratio equals Purpose: To assess the degree to which revenues are committed to the repayment of debt. <i>The figures show a reduction in the amount of Loan repayments from income which is also mainly due to the Underground Power project loan repayments decrease i.e Stage 1 repayments ended in 2001/02 financial year</i>	2.80%	2.95%	3.43%
Rate Coverage Ratio equals Purpose: To assess the degree of dependence upon revenue from rates <i>The figures show a decrease in the income received from rates</i>	65.58%	62.96%	65.06%
Outstanding Rates Ratio equals Purpose: To assess the impact of uncollected rates on liquidity and the adequacy of recovery efforts. <i>The figures show a reduction in outstanding rates and charges which have been levied</i>	2.44%	2.62%	1.28%

Rating

The Town of East Fremantle levied \$5.20m of rates in 2008/2009 including the Emergency Services Levy of \$605,826. Of this \$5.12m was collected. \$84,176 was deferred under the Pensioner Deferred Rates scheme giving an effective collection rate of 99.8%. The Town continued its endeavour to provide excellent customer service in a cost effective manner by offering the much requested BPay payment option for the new year.

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 reviewing and updating its Record Keeping Plan which was approved by the State Records Commission in December 2008.

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 (ITVision Synergysoft) and stored electronically for distribution and archival purposes.

For the year ending 30 June 2009, 7,811 individual items of correspondence were recorded, scanned and processed through this system. This is an increase of 9.7% on last 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

To improve the provision to information to the community, Council upgrading its website. The site has a cleaner fresher look and improved navigation and search functions. The new website is a content managed system which enables information to be upgraded more efficiently.

It is now possible for Council to obtain statistics regarding usage of the website. On average the site receives 400 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 Ghana and the Czech Republic.

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 ITVision Synergysoft Enterprise software took place in the second half of the year. Replacement of older computers hardware also occurred during the year.

Town Planning Public Domain

Pat Garrity, Acting Operations Manager

The 2008/09 financial year budget enabled the upgrade and improvement to various sections of infrastructure throughout the Town including footpaths, roads and recreational facilities. The following items were set to be undertaken to provide valued, improved and new infrastructure.

Road Resurfacing Program (Roman Data Collection)

Due to budget limits accurate assessment of the road pavement condition can provide a consistent and rational method for allocating limited resources. The Roman Data Collection program is designed to gather all information regarding the condition of the roads and footpaths which is then interpreted to define the current state of pavement. Data collected can include the type, amount and severity of surface distress and structural integrity. Roads and paths are then prioritised from the worst pavement distress upwards enabling the resurfacing or replacing of roads to be scheduled more effectively dependent on the funds available. The roads are then inspected by the reporting officer to recommend a list of streets which are in need of immediate pavement upgrade.

Sections of roads to undergo resurfacing were Allen Street, Staton Road and Alcester Street. The section of Silas Street (from George Street to Saint Peters Road) was beyond repair and required a complete reconstruction and replacement of the sub base; minor works were done to the residents asphalt crossovers. The median strip at the intersection of George Street was lengthened. It is anticipated that the presence of the extended median island will slow those vehicles crossing straight over George Street. Pram ramps have also been installed for the benefit of pedestrians and kerbs were also replaced and the crossovers re asphalted.

Footpath Program

The Replacement Footpath Program was undertaken with the bitumen paths of Irwin Street, Staton Road, Coolgardie Avenue and Dalgety Street undergoing full reconstruction and being replaced with the *2 coat bitumen seal*. The Allen Street concrete footpath that runs parallel with the East Fremantle Football Oval was removed and replaced due to the severe cracking and lifting of panels from the mature Eucalyptus trees in the verge.

Pram Ramps

Due to the upgrade of 28 pram ramps in last year's capital works program, only four ramps needed replacement. The existing pram ramps were very old with a very steep grade that was not conducive to the present footpath standards. The replacement ramps have a longer grade allowing a safer more gentle transition from road to path for those in wheel chairs, motorised chairs and those pushing prams.

Dovenby House

The planting at Dovenby House was carried out in November 2008. Species of trees included flowering plum & flowering pear, evergreen ash, chinese elm and magnolias. The various variety of shrubs planted included camellias, purple daisies, lavender, pittosporums, dianella flax, seaside daisies, chinese star jasmine ice berg roses and ornamental grasses. With the completion the Dovenby House project the maintenance of lawn and gardens is now incorporated into the weekly schedule for Parks & Gardens.

Drainage Upgrades

The Stratford Street and the Irwin Street catchment areas were identified as requiring immediate upgrades. These works included the pipelines and side entry pit (drainage gullies) situated on Windsor Road, Gill Street and Walter Street being replaced along with extra pits being installed. Stage 2 of this drainage upgrade has been scheduled into the 2009/10 budget; this work will include upgrades to the pits & pipeline in Clayton Street & Stratford Street. There will also be

Town Planning Public Domain

extra gullies installed into Walter Street. The Irwin Street drainage upgrade has been completed albeit into the new financial year, this work has already proven its worth with no flooding at all from the latest and heaviest of rain fall. These works utilised the existing sump in Lee Park with a minor enlargement of the catchment sump required. A new perimeter fence has been installed and now only requires the exterior fence to be planted with native bushes.

East Fremantle Oval

The oval was verti-mowed to remove the thatching then the goal squares and the centre square were excavated so new turf could be laid in time for the football season. The new turf did not grow as well as previous years and soil samples have shown the need for further subsoil works to be undertaken when the turf is replaced at the end of season. This work will include some subsoil drainage which will be installed in front of the players' shelters races in order to reduce waterlog in this section of the field which has become a mud patch. Due to the deterioration of sections of field a different design of aerator machine was used called an *earthquake machine* which sends a steel spike into the subsoil at an offset angle giving better irrigation. Rye grass was also sowed in a 10 metre wide strip up the centre of the field from goal to goal which has certainly helped the playing condition of the oval.

Henry Jeffrey Oval

Due to late rains the oval had become very hard, which is not an ideal playing surface for football. To address this problem Henry Jeffrey Oval also had an earthquake application which to all reports rectified the field condition.

Lower Wauhop Park (Tricolore)

The lower soccer field in Wauhop Park received fertilising and minor upgrades of the sprinkler heads on the reticulation system. The Fremantle Spirit premier division club relocated to Lower Wauhop for their "A" grade games and erected a steel pole fence

surrounding the perimeter of the playing field as per WA Soccer Association regulations. The club had agreed they would undertake various renovation works to the field, unfortunately however nothing eventuated from this and as such the field will need some major renovation works to be carried out this financial year with quotes for the work already received.

Glasson Park

The pump to the bore in Glasson Park had a mechanical meltdown in January of this year. The pump was out of commission for some time and unfortunately around 150 square metres of grass park area died. Once the pump became operational again the areas of dead grass were replaced with roll on kikuyu turf. At the same time pram ramps were installed under the 3 personnel gates allowing access for wheelchairs directly to the park tables. The replacement turf has bedded in very well and the park is once again a green focal point of the Plympton Precinct.

River Foreshore

Council received a report of spiny rush (a sharp spiked rush weed plant that is extremely invasive and will completely take over an area and destroy natural fauna) growing along the foreshore around 100 metres north and south of the boat ramp. In conjunction with Swan River Trust staff, Council staff cut and removed the seed heads which were stored in bags, removed and incinerated. The remaining plant was then cut lower to the ground and sprayed with a weed solution as prescribed by the Trust. This is the first step in the process of trying to eradicate this plant with further cutting and spraying scheduled into the foreshore maintenance program.

Street Verge Tree Planting

The annual planting of the verges throughout the Town was carried out with approximately 70 new and replacement trees going in the ground. It was noted that the numbers of dead or dying trees in the Town has more than doubled the previous year with other councils experiencing similar statistics. Arborist

Town Planning Public Domain

reports have indicated a decline in health to certain gum trees via a disease called *canker*. It is yet to be determined whether or not this is a wind blown disease or soil bound. There is also the species of tree to take into consideration as a lot of trees lost are mature Box trees which have an estimated life span of 10 to fifteen years dependent on soil and weather conditions. The dry summer has not been beneficial to this species. In order to try and prevent further spreading of the canker a varied planting procedure will be introduced where replacement trees will be relocated in the verge and the soil from the old tree will be removed and backfilled with clean soil.

paved path that ran from the car park behind the Tai Chi hall to the Swan Yacht Club.

Tree Pruning

A street tree pruning program was implemented designating each Friday of the week for tree pruning. As referred above a number of large mature trees died this year and needed to be removed. As contractors were required to undertake this unforeseen work, it has meant a large increase in the tree pruning budget for the coming year as there are still a number of trees throughout the Town whose lack of water tolerance will be tested this summer.

Line Marking

A number of streets in the Town received new *No Standing* line marking in order to present clear and precise notification to motorists of where they can and cannot park. Where requested by residents, car bays on either side of crossovers were painted to clearly define where vehicles must park to prevent ongoing issues of cars blocking driveways, mainly in the Plympton Ward.

Car Park Bays

The Leeuwin car park No 1 had all the parking bays resprayed with single car bays painted in a different colour from those for car and trailers. A new car park was constructed by the entry closest to the Zephyr Café to accommodate motorcycles. Norm MacKenzie Park also had its car park bays resprayed. A new cream coloured concrete path was also installed to replace the broken

Health Services

HEALTH SERVICES

Shelley Cocks Principal Environmental Health Officer

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

Food Premises & Food Surveillance

A new Food Act 2008 was recently passed by the Western Australian Parliament, receiving Royal Assent on 8 July 2008. This Act regulates the sale of food in Western Australia to ensure that food is safe and is suitable for human consumption.

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

During the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 a total of 30 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 an alternative approach was taken to food safety in that random bacteriological sampling of ready to eat foods was undertaken followed by targeted food safety and hygiene training of staff at those premises. Staff indicated a marked willingness to undertake training where bacteriological sampling indicated poor food handling techniques, inadequate temperature controls or evidence of cross contamination. In all cases foods which had been supplied from factories at other councils had follow up sampling undertaken by their own environmental health officers, and the project

helped to raise awareness of food safety within 5 premises at the Town of East Fremantle. It is envisaged that this approach will be taken over a broader range of premises next financial year.

Food Recalls

A total of 29 food product recalls were recorded for 2008/09

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 2 food complaints were received in 2008/09:

- Weevils and maggots were found within a sealed container of fruit and nut Trail Mix, and containers of the same use by date were removed from sale.
- A complaint was received regarding a ready to eat meal prepared in a local café.

All complaints are investigated and this may involve working closely with food handlers, retail outlets, food manufacturers, chemical analysts and entomologists.

Public Building Inspections

Ten follow up public building inspections were carried out at sporting clubs 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.

Applications to install grey water systems

Three grey water systems have been installed during this financial year prior to the rebate for grey water being cancelled by the State Government.

Public Swimming Pools

The Town of East Fremantle currently has 7 pools at 6 premises which constitute public swimming pools as per the Health

Health Services

(Swimming Pool) Regulations 1964, as amended. All pools are sampled monthly, when open, to ensure compliance with bacteriological and amoebic standards.

During 2008/09 a total of 63 samples were taken, of which 15 were non-compliant, resulting in re-sampling on a regular basis. Where non-compliance was detected, the pools were voluntarily closed for disinfection and superchlorination in accordance with Health Department of Western Australia policy. Council's Environmental Health Officer has been working closely with the Health Department of Western Australia when Acanthamoeba has been detected during routine sampling.

Environmental River Sampling

Regular samples are taken of river water near Zephyrs Café at John Tonkin Park. These samples are taken to boost the Department of Health sampling schedule which comprises water samples being taken on a fortnightly basis during the summer season (November to April). The Department has asked for local government assistance to help achieve 100 samples within a 5 year period in accordance with the 2005 Guidelines for Managing Risks in Recreational Waters. 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 Zephyrs Café is currently graded green.

Notifiable Diseases

For the period under review six cases of notifiable diseases were recorded. When requested by the Health Department, patients are interviewed to determine the origin of the disease and the information conveyed to the Health Department of Western Australia for further analysis.

The diseases reported were:

Campylobacteriosis	4
Salmonellosis	1
Ross River Virus	1

Human Swine Flu Pandemic

Alarmingly, 2009 saw the onset of the first pandemic in many years: Human Swine Flu Pandemic (H1N1). As of 4 August 2009 the current situation in Western Australia is as follows:

Laboratory confirmed cases – 2272

Current H1N1 inpatients – 24 cases (12 of these in intensive care)

Total number of deaths – 2

Western Australia is now in the PROTECT phase. The World Health Organisation pandemic alert level is now at phase 6 which signals that a global pandemic is underway.

The following advice applies:

Human swine flu is a mild illness in most people. People with underlying conditions will be a target for testing, treatment and care. People at risk of severe illness include pregnant women, people with respiratory disease such as asthma, heart disease, diabetes, renal disease, morbid obesity or weakened immune systems.

People requiring medical advice should telephone their doctor or phone Healthdirect Australia on 1800 022 222.

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

A total of 11 noise complaints were received and can be classified as follows:

Pool pump noise	1
Noisy parties/loud music	4
Audible alarm	1
Builders starting early (before 7am)	1
Antisocial amplified noise	1

Health Services

Air conditioner noise	1
Early morning deliveries	2

This was a decrease in total complaints from 30 complaints the year before. It is hoped that a hard line approach such as writing to all alleged offenders notifying them of their obligations in regard to the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations, and the various penalties which may apply; and sending out infringements for early morning noise offences whether it be deliveries to commercial premises or building sites is having a positive impact on the level of noise pollution in East Fremantle.

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. The Department of Environment distributes information in relation to correct storage and fuel burning techniques to minimise smoke production. Smoky chimney complaints are investigated from the viewpoint of education, not enforcement. Two smoke complaints were investigated during 2008/09.

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

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 431 residents collected free rat bait over the financial 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 moths. Information and advice is also available on a wide variety of garden pests, weeds and noxious plants.

Cooperative Fox Control Project

The Cooperative Fox Control project between Cities of Melville and Fremantle, Town of East Fremantle, Transfield Services and Fremantle Port Authority has been successfully completed with funding from the Perth Biodiversity Project. In total, 25 active dens were fumigated during the program and overall 44 dens were mapped and monitored. A total of 28 foxes – both adults and juveniles – were trapped. No other animals were captured. The project also served to map all areas utilised by foxes, which will enable future monitoring of these areas. Funds has been placed in Council's budget to facilitate future monitoring and control of foxes on a regular basis, should the need arise.

Waste Management & Recycling

Council put the residential verge side collection program out to tender and signed up Steann Pty Ltd in November 2008 for a 3 year contract and a 2 year extension, subject to satisfactory service.

The program for collection is as follows: Green waste – 6 July 2009, 28 September 2009, 22 February 2010 and 5 July 2010. The bulk verge collection will commence on 30 November 2009.

SMRC Annual figures.

- Mixed Solid Waste – 2,171 tonnes resulting in a greenhouse gas saving of 2,041 tCO₂e
- Recycling – 695 tonnes including 445 tonnes of paper products resulting in a greenhouse gas saving of 1,113 tCO₂e
- Green Waste Processing – 176 tonnes resulting in a greenhouse gas saving of 229 tCO₂e

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

1. Mobile phones and associated batteries via the Mobile Muster,
2. Rechargeable batteries via the Cleanaway program,

Health Services

3. Printer cartridges via the Planet Ark program, and
4. Needles and syringes into dedicated sharps containers.

Council co-hosted a free hazardous household waste collection day with the City of Cockburn. Every household was advised per letterbox drop and a total of 20 East Fremantle residents handed in hazardous items.

Climatewise Project

3 Energy audits for households
GHG saving of 15 tCO₂e

5 Energy Actions flyers to households
GHG saving of 6 tCO₂e

2 households advised on rooftop PV cells
GHG saving of 17 tCO₂e

The next Living Smart course will be held at the Glyde In Community Centre from 29 October to 3 December 2009.

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 2,307 individual contacts and 717 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 behaviours.

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 30/6/09:

- Fremantle residents, workers, students 9274 including 255 Toy Library members
- East Fremantle residents, workers, students 1841 including 54 Toy Library members
- The Library’s Annual Report will be available later in the year.

Disability Access and Inclusion Plans

Council’s DAIP has been published on the website and Council continues to maintain and uphold the following 6 desired outcomes:

1. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of and any events organised by a public authority.
2. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the buildings and other facilities of a public authority.
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.
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.
5. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to a public authority.
6. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any public consultations by a public authority.

Accordingly an annual report has been submitted to Disability Commission outlining improvements to disability access within the Town. In the last financial year we have built 5 new pram ramps at street intersections and

Health Services

on the river access pathway. We have also improved disabled access at the East Fremantle Tennis Club and adjoining hall by installing a disabled access ramp from the car park to the lawn area and another ramp to the hall from the rear doors. Our Glyde-In Community Learning Centre is having a new sliding disabled compliant access door installed this financial year. We have included improved disabled access at an existing Council building in the next budget. We have had three commercial premise fitouts in the past financial year which have had compliant disabled access toilets installed.

Emergency Management

I regularly attend Local Emergency Management meetings as required by the Emergency Management Act 2005, and have contributed to the production of shared Local Emergency Management arrangements and Local Recovery plans.

Anyone interested in reading these arrangements are invited to contact the Principal Environmental Health Officer.

Specific local government responsibilities under the Act are:

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

Crime Prevention Partnership

The Town of East Fremantle has developed a Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan in alignment with the State Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy (2004), local police and Neighbourhood Watch groups, the local business community and residents.

The aim of this Plan is to implement and evaluate sustainable action to improve safety and wellbeing in the East Fremantle area.

Funding was received from the Office of Crime Prevention to support the development of this Plan, and an external public health and local government consultant, Stoneham and Associates, was contracted to provide support in developing the Plan.

Presently the Plan is in draft format but a full copy of the plan will be available once it is endorsed by Council.

East Fremantle Festival.

The Town of East Fremantle presented its annual festival on George Street on Sunday 7th December 2008 from 1pm to 8pm.

There was talent galore on stage which included lots of local acts. There were three stages this year, one in Hubble Street, one in George Street and one in Glasson Park.

On the Hubble Street stage the Funkalleros performed their own brand of Latin music, a group of local lads – The Suns of June shared their fresh sound, Wolves at the Door performed music with blues/folk/pop and alternative blendings, Iridescent Sea presented their fashion parades with this season's clothing, Prita Grealy – a superb vocalist performed folk melodies saturated in soul, and Easy Tigers – one of Perth's best party bands had people up and dancing before the festival was over.

On the King Street stage, the coolest DJ in town DJ Avi played his funky groove and world music in between acts, the ever popular Italian Women's Choir – Joys of the Women presented their traditional Italian folksongs, the Morning People belted out their own young indy rock sound and the Infectious Shangara Jive got the crowd moving to their groovy music.

Glasson Park was transformed into 'Cirque du George'. Here the young and the young at heart were treated to spectacular

Health Services

performances by circus entertainers Captain Quirk, Isobel Necessary and Mr Hardy. The highlight was the Cirquel Circus Workshop by the 'amazing and talented Captain Quirk' who taught kids and adults how to juggle, spin plates and perform other clever circus tricks. There were incredible creatures to hold, giant bubbles to blow, a climbing wall to scale and giant board games to play. Best of all it was easy on the hip pocket as these activities were all free.

The artisan market was a real hit again this year and it involved more than 70 art and craft stalls selling their handmade wares just in time for Christmas. There was jewellery, clothing, hand bags and purses, textiles, glassware, cards, paintings, soaps and candles, natural skincare, photography, preserves, olive oils and much more.

Many George Street businesses threw open their doors in true festival style and welcomed festival goers into their premises. Other local businesses and community groups also got in on the act and showcased their products and services to the estimated 10,000 strong festival audience.

Adding a carnival atmosphere to the festival were roving performers, Hardy Ha Ha, Bec and Darian, the mime artist. And of course those perennial festival favourites the very colourful and very loud WASAMBA brought a touch of Rio Carnival to East Fremantle at 7.30pm.

An exhibition called, 'The George Celebrates' by the Old Royal George Artists Foundation was also open during the festival and added to the artistic flavour of the festival. Many people were treated to an 'artful' display by the gallery's resident painters, ceramicists, textile artists, glassworkers, graphic designers and musicians featured in the exhibition.

The food this year was delicious and included a large range of healthy foods to tantalise festival participants' taste buds. There was plenty on offer including gourmet pizza, homemade low fat ice cream and yoghurts, warm edible nuts, crepes, baked spuds, salads,

Thai and Latin American dishes, fruit slushies, Boost Juice and more.

This community festival was proudly presented by the Town of East Fremantle and was supported by major sponsors Lotterywest and the Fremantle Herald and local sponsors Hubbles Yard, Iridescent Sea, the George Street Bistro, Contours (Fremantle and Success), George Street Physio and Pilates and Councillor Dean Nardi.

NEIGHBOURHOOD LINK – HACC SERVICES

Sue Limbert, Community Services Officer

The Neighbourhood Link service commenced in 1989. Our purpose is to enhance the quality of life of frail aged and disabled community members. Our focus will remain on provision of basic support services and promotion of independence to our clients. The 'Wellness Approach' to client support, is an initiative under the Health Department of Western Australia's 'Way Forward' program. This program supports client independence through fostering the abilities of clients in their care regime and is now in operation with Neighbourhood Link in our services, assessment and review processes.

Services we provide assist our participants with everyday tasks many of us take for granted such as cleaning, shopping, respite, gardening, and social activities. The number of frail aged community members entering into residential care prematurely is reduced through the work of the Home and Community Care Program. The quality of life of frail aged and disabled community members is enhanced through the support provided. This allows the participant to remain living safely and independently within their own home. The services we provide, perform an important social support function, by encouraging participation from those who may be unable to complete all daily living tasks without assistance, but wish to remain and continue to be active in their community.

Health Services

Key achievements for Neighbourhood Link included the following;

- All sections of Neighbourhood Link worked as an effective team towards achieving our purpose.
- 24,766 occasions of care was provided to 306 clients.
- Continued support was provided to Care-Options, Volunteer Home Support and Challenger TAFE 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 and Challenger TAFE.
- Formally implemented the 'Wellness Approach' into all programs.
- Implemented 'Unit Costing'

Neighbourhood Link's name has established itself as a highly regarded service provider, assisting participants from East Fremantle and surrounding precincts. Managing the services for clients requires not only skills but a strong commitment by those charged with this responsibility. We are very fortunate to have a team of outstanding support workers, volunteers and students, who are prepared to 'go the extra mile' in supporting our participants and our programs. I thank you all for your tremendous efforts and unflinching dedication.

I would also like to sincerely thank Council's CEO Stuart Wearne, the Mayor and Councillors on the support they have given me throughout the year. Thanks also to Donna Vincent our HACC Senior Contracts Officer.

The past year has been full of challenges for many people in the community, but thanks to those involved in supporting our services Neighbourhood Link has continued to provide a quality service to its participants.

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: 33

Volunteers who help Graffiti 38

Estimated NHW Members: 2198

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

Our area is divided into two sections: north and south of Canning Highway. Three thousand three hundred Neighbourhood Watch 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 street, day and time and a general description of the crime are recorded. The objects of the newsletters are to:

- Promote protection & security for seniors at risk.
- Assist in dealing with telephone solicitations & door to door salesman.
- Advise of current frauds & scams.
- Advise of crime prevention programs.
- Provide information on how to avoid becoming a victim of crime.
- Provide home security information & inspection by police.

Health Services

- Promote expanded involvement in Neighbourhood Watch.
- Provide information on method of reporting crime to Police.
- Provide a phone number that is not a Police number. (This one very popular)

If members 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.

Crime Alert

When a member informs us that they have been a victim of crime we print and drop a crime alert form into about 25 homes around the area that the crime had occurred, no names or addresses, only streets, day, time and a general description of the crime are recorded.

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 2003/2004 we took 500 photos which were taken at 45 sites and resulted in 76 formal police reports.

During 2004/2005 we took 1,288 photos which were taken at 74 sites and resulted in 912 formal police reports.

During 2005/2006 we took 1,555 photos which were taken at 89 sites and resulted in 1,331 formal police reports.

During 2006/2007 we took 1,568 photos which were taken at 190 sites and resulted in 1,452 formal police reports.

During 2007/2008 we took 1435 photos which were taken at 204 sites and resulted in all photos going to the Police.

During 2008/2009 we took 1745 photos which were taken at 394 sites increase due to graffiti on stop signs (Main Roads)

A tour of the entire East Fremantle area is taken every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday to take photos, and check on other items (Main Roads, Western Power infrastructure etc). Where graffiti is obscene or has phone numbers on it, a photo is taken and the graffiti reported and removed as soon as possible.

Each Wednesday, Friday and Monday reports and photos are emailed or hand delivered to:

- Western Power
- Main Roads
- Water Corporation
- Traffic Lights Boxes
- Telstra
- East Fremantle Volunteers
- Fremantle Police and Community Police as required
- Fremantle Graffiti Removal Team

Three new projects introduced during the year:

- A once a week removal of graffiti on our blue bus stops by Council & NHW. This has been a great success.
- Meetings and discussion with other councils on graffiti attacks.
- Crime Alert (commenced on 19 May 2008). An email from the police is received when there has been a break-in in East Fremantle giving a number of addresses to which our volunteers then deliver a Crime Alert letter and crime security information the same day. We had 70 streets to deliver Crime Alerts, over 1750 letters were delivered.

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

Health Services

With the help of all our volunteers, Neighbourhood Watch has had a very active and successful year. Thanks to all our 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 our appreciation and thanks to the Fremantle Police, Community Police, the ladies who print our newsletters and the members of the Office of Crime Prevention.

RANGER SERVICES

Andrew Driver, Senior Ranger

Overview

For the majority of the year ending 30 June 2008, Ranger Services were manned by one full time Senior Ranger and two casual Rangers 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
- Litter Act
- Bush Fires Act
- Off Road Vehicles Act
- Local Government Act
- Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act
- Fish Resources Management Act
- All 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
- 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 2008 to 30 June 2009 Rangers continued the policy of issuing infringement notices only to people who had previously been found in contravention of the Dog Act and who had been issued with either a verbal or written cautionary notice on that occasion.

Cautionary notices

From 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 Rangers issued one hundred and fifty-one (151) 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 \$15,100.00.

Attacks

From 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, there was one (1) dog attack involving injuries to humans, which has been settled with all medical costs and lost earnings recovered to the satisfaction of the injured parties. Although minor injuries such as twisted ankles or fall abrasions were sustained in these cases no person sustained any bite injuries

Health Services

All three of the dogs involved in the attacks on humans were euthanised at the request of their owners.

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

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

On average Rangers attended three (3) 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.

The majority of these cases occurred in off lead exercise areas and were 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 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, Raceway Park, Preston Point Road, 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.

Rangers also issued leads to owners who were found to be walking their dog off lead and not in possession of a dog lead at the time of issuance of their cautionary notice for the owner's contravention of the Dog Act.

Having given significant thought to both the apparent lack of visiting dog owners' awareness of their responsibilities under the Dog Act in general and to dog owners feedback, the ranger services team continued to issued new style Dog Act cautionary notices that are both easier and quicker to issue to members of the public, while at the same time advises dog owners in an educational manner of all of the offences that they may contravene in relation to the Dog Act.

Also due to the educational program the ranger services team distributed a total of one thousand nine hundred (1900) information brochures to dog owners to raise the levels of voluntary compliance with the Dog Act.

As part of the educational program, Rangers also continued conducting puppy socialisation and basic behavioural training classes free of charge to residents and regular visitors. These classes were of one (1) hour duration per session and held twice a week for a ten (10) week period and proved to be a popular way to train residents' dogs as well as form a new social network.

Rangers conducted these courses by volunteering and attending/conducting the sessions in their own off duty time.

Health Services

Rangers also delivered educational programs to Richmond Primary School students based on the “Delta Dog Safe Programme” and these appear to have been enjoyed by the participating students and teachers.

The combination of all of the above programs has seen a significant reduction in contraventions of the Dog Act within the Town of East Fremantle and a reduction in issuance levels of both cautionary notices and infringement notices.

The Subiaco Veterinary Clinic provided the Town of East Fremantle Ranger Services team with a significant number of vouchers that provided free sterilisation of residents’ companion animals which in turn allowed owners to reduce the registration costs for their pets. Rangers wish to extend the Town’s appreciation to the Clinic for their generosity in this program.

Barking Complaints

Rangers have investigated one hundred and fifty-six (156) 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 owners.

However, Rangers receive on average six (6) 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 increases.

Stray/Impounded Dogs

Total dogs collected	91
Returned to owners	53
Total dogs impounded	38
Dogs reclaimed by owners	10
Dogs unclaimed and re-homed	28
Dogs destroyed	0

Registrations

For financial year 2008/2009 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 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 2008 with twelve (12) properties requiring attention as they did not comply with the November 30 deadline mandated by State Government.

The twelve (12) properties receiving fire warning notices and all fifteen 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

Health Services

ensured that their property was 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 Leeuwin boat launching ramp totalled \$118,800.

The significant rise in revenue gained from these machines since the 2003 to 2004 period can be contributed to the fact that launching ramp users have become aware of both the requirements to purchase a ticket and the higher level of presence and enforcement by ranger services team members, better standard of signage within the car park and Ranger Services staff monitoring the machines and attending to repairs quickly.

Council issued 41 permits to ratepayers wishing to utilise the Leeuwin launching facility reflecting a decrease from the 69 permits issued in 2005/2006.

Parking Infringements

In financial year 2008/2009, Council raised an amount of \$198,481 in parking infringement penalties.

This can be attributed to the higher level of training and awareness by ranger services staff in relation to both the Town of East Fremantle's Parking Local Laws and the Road Traffic Code, combined with higher levels of physical presence of ranger services team members on the Town's streets.

Another major contributory factor is the heightened awareness of the residents in relation to parking offences and the potential ramifications of those offences has led to a significant rise in both phone calls and e-mail complaints inclusive of evidentiary photographs from the public direct to Rangers to report contraventions such as parking within 6 metres of an intersection, obstruction of right of way and parking

contrary to flow of traffic which hampers drivers' vision of oncoming traffic and raising the potential for a collision.

Parking Cautionary Notices

After careful review and analysis of drivers' stated reasons for contravening both Local Parking Laws and relevant sections of the Road Traffic Code of Western Australia over a period of six months, the ranger services team members redesigned the style of parking cautionary notices which made it both easier and quicker to issue to members of the public, while at the same time advising drivers of the thirty five most common parking offences committed by drivers within the Town of East Fremantle during the previous four months.

Ranger services audits all cautionary notices and infringement notices issued during each four (4) month period to identify which thirty five (35) offences should be included in each reprint of the parking cautionary notice books.

An example of where these cautionary notices have been used with great success is with the drivers of vehicles picking up or delivering children to both Richmond Primary School and East Fremantle Primary School. It is essential, in these areas, to ensure that traffic flows safely and continuously through the "kiss and drop" lanes to ensure that both adjacent parking areas and carriageways are kept free of traffic congestion.

There were a total of six thousand five hundred and two (6,502) parking cautionary notices issued by rangers in the 2008 to 2009 period. The face value of these cautionary notices had they been issued as infringement notices was \$390,120.

Local Laws

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

Health Services

Rangers issued a total of five hundred and forty-six (546) 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-two (22) 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-two (22), these were rectified as soon as practical 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 assistance via either other Council Departments or from State Government agencies.

The face value of these cautionary notices if they had been issued as infringement notices was \$54,600.

Litter Act

Rangers issued a total of four hundred and sixty-five (465) cautions for contraventions of the Litter Act. The face value of these cautionary notices was \$46,500.

Abandoned Vehicles

There were a total of one hundred and forty nine (149) cars abandoned within the Town of East Fremantle during the 2008 to 2009 period.

Rangers continued the policy commenced during 2004 to 2005 of attempting to locate the vehicle's owners 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 twenty-six (126) of these vehicles and advised them 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 \$735 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 for purchase and removal of the vehicle.

Had Council been required to impound all one hundred and twenty-six (126) vehicles the cost to Council would have been \$92, 610.

Of the remaining two (2) vehicles Rangers were able to ascertain that the owners had left Australia and therefore had no choice but to impound the vehicles and sell them by tender.

The months of October through to early February saw significant rises in levels of abandonment.

Stolen Vehicles

There were a total of seventeen (17) stolen vehicles located and recovered by Rangers within the Town of East Fremantle during the 2008 to 2009 period.

Response to Burglar Alarms

Rangers responded to one hundred and sixty-three (163) residential active burglar alarms during the 2008 to 2009 financial year.

Rangers responded to both alarms reported by residents and those located by Rangers during routine patrols. When Rangers located the active alarm, they requested administration staff to check Council data bases to identify the owner and contact telephone numbers.

Where owners can be identified and contacted via telephone, Rangers ascertain if the resident wishes to have a security check of the premises conducted by Rangers and the owners consent on access to rear yards etc.

Health Services

In cases where the owner can not be contacted Rangers conducted a visual security check of all visible windows, doors, walls and roof lines and a Ranger's attendance notice is left for the resident advising of time of attendance and result of limited security check conducted.

Damaged Infrastructure Reports

Rangers recorded and reported two thousand, one hundred and eighty-seven (2187) cases of damage to infrastructure within the Town of East Fremantle during the 2008 to 2009 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

By Chris Warrener, Town Planner

The general purpose of Town Planning in the Town of East Fremantle is to ensure that development meets its existing and future amenity needs. Amenity is the sense of well being and ambience that is influenced by the character and quality of the local environment.

Town planning has two discreet but interrelated themes, referred to as Orderly Planning and Proper Planning.

Orderly Planning, based on procedural theory, relates to the processes involved in assessing development, making Policy, Scheme amendments etc. Examples of Orderly Planning include:

- Seeking neighbour comment on a boundary wall; and
- Seeking public comment on Policies and Town Planning Scheme amendments.

Proper Planning is based upon substantive theory, and relates to the impact (now or in the future) of a development upon the environment. Examples of Proper Planning include:

- Height controls to ensure solar access and views are conserved;
- Density controls to ensure the retention of open space;
- Setback, fenestration, roof pitch controls and the like to ensure streetscape harmony; and
- Location of trip attractors within easy walking distance of a bus stop.

The stated aims of the Town of East Fremantle Town Planning Scheme No 3 include:

- To recognise the historical development of East Fremantle and to preserve the existing character of the Town;
- To promote the conservation of buildings and places of heritage significance, and to protect and enhance the existing heritage values of the Town;

- To provide for a variety of development to meet the needs of the community with regard to housing, employment and services;
- To facilitate and encourage effective public involvement in planning issues of significance to the character, amenity and environmental attributes of the Town.

The Planning Department liaises with the Building and Environmental Health Departments regarding the assessment of development applications before Council.

Chris Warrener is Council's Town Planner, with professional assistance from Peta Cooper, Mr Paul Busby is the Building Surveyor, and Shelley Cocks is the Environmental Health Surveyor.

Notable developments approved during 2008/09 include:

- The former Masonic Hall at 219 Canning Highway has been refurbished;
- Council approved the development of a 2-class kindergarten at the Baptist Church property at 6 Fortescue Street;
- Council approved a mixed use development at 88 George Street;
- Council adopted Amendment No 5 to Town Planning Scheme No 3 for final approval. This amendment allows the property at 5 Gill Street to be used for Offices in association with the adjoining Braemar Homes for the Aged;
- Council approved the redevelopment of the "Red Rooster" site on Canning Highway as an International Food Store;
- The "Lauder & Howard" building, used for the storage & sale of antique furniture at 36-42 Duke Street, was approved for residential development

Membership of the Town Planning & Building Committee (Private Domain) as at 30 June 2009 consisted of Cr Stefanie Dobro as Presiding Member and Deputy Mayor, Mayor

Town Planning/Private Domain

Alan Ferris, Cr Richard Olson, Cr Alex Wilson, Cr Barry de Jong, Cr Maria Rico and Cr Dean Nardi.

Town Planning/Private Domain

Building

Building Approvals:

<i>Residential Dwellings</i>	22	\$ 12,518,874
<i>Alterations/Additions</i>	31	6,860,352
<i>Swimming Pools</i>	15	424,821
<i>Outbuildings</i>	7	557,654
<i>Patios/Alfresco/Landscaping</i>	27	234,827
<i>Carports</i>	9	124,700
<i>Refurbishment</i>	2	600,000
<i>Balcony/Verandah</i>	4	62,500
<i>Fences/Retaining Wall</i>	9	142,000
<i>Internal Alterations</i>	2	15,600
<i>Commercial Fitout</i>	1	100,000
<i>Commercial Building</i>	2	800,000
<i>Roof Alterations</i>	3	47,910
<i>Jetty Modification</i>	1	20,000
<i>Cubby</i>	1	2,000
<i>Rainwater Tank</i>	1	750
	<u>137</u>	\$ 22,511,988

<i>Amended Building Licences</i>	13
<i>Verge Licences</i>	10
<i>Building Approval Certificate</i>	10

Demolition Licences Issued:

		7
<i>Residences</i>	5	
<i>Shed</i>	1	
<i>Church (Partial)</i>	1	

Town Planning

Approval to Commence Development:

<i>Approval</i>	98
<i>Delegated Approval</i>	55
<i>Conditional Approval</i>	2
<i>Refusal</i>	5
<i>Applications Deferred</i>	3
<i>Applications Withdrawn</i>	3
<i>Building Licence Only Required</i>	18
<i>Being Processed as at 30/6/09</i>	7

Planning Approvals Appealed:

		3
<i>Upheld</i>	1	
<i>Withdrawn</i>	2	

Town Planning Scheme Amendment

<i>Approval</i>	1
-----------------	---

Unauthorised Existing Development

<i>Approval</i>	4
<i>Refusal</i>	2
<i>Building Licence Only</i>	1