

PEEL AND SOUTH WEST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONS, WAGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2090. Mr M.G. House to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Peel and the South West

- (1) What percentage of the total budget for the Peel Development Commission is allocated to wages?
- (2) How many people are employed by the Peel Development Commission?
- (3) What is the role of each person employed by the Peel Development Commission?
- (4) Will the Minister list the specific achievements of the Peel Development Commission for the 2002/03 Budget Year?
- (5) Will the Minister list the specific achievements of the Peel Development Commission for the 2001/02 Budget Year?
- (6) Will the Minister list the specific achievements of the Peel Development Commission for the 2000/01 Budget Year?
- (7) Will the Minister list the specific achievements of the Peel Development Commission for the 1999/2000 Budget Year?
- (8) What percentage of the total budget for the South West Development Commission is allocated to wages?
- (9) How many people are employed by the South West Development Commission?
- (10) What is the role of each person employed by the South West Development Commission?
- (11) Will the Minister list the specific achievements of the South West Development Commission for the 2002/03 Budget Year?
- (12) Will the Minister list the specific achievements of the South West Development Commission for the 2001/02 Budget Year?
- (13) Will the Minister list the specific achievements of the South West Development Commission for the 2000/01 Budget Year?
- (14) Will the Minister list the specific achievements of the South West Development Commission for the 1999/2000 Budget Year?

Mr F.M. LOGAN replied:

- (1) 22.6% of 2003/04 total budget is allocated to wages.
- (2) 14 persons are employed as at 14 October 2003.
- (3)
 - Chief Executive Officer
 - Manager Corporate Services
 - Manager, Community Development
 - Manager, Environmental & Cultural Development
 - Manager, Economic Development
 - Manager, Infrastructure Projects
 - Executive Assistant
 - Finance & Administration Officer
 - Customer Services Officer
 - Funding Support and Communications Officer
 - Water Sensitive Design Officer - Fixed Term
 - Indigenous Enterprise Development Officer - Fixed Term
 - Business Development Manager - Fixed Term
 - Peel Community Development Coordinator - Fixed Term
 - (The fixed term positions are all externally funded.)
- (4) Major Achievements for 2002-03:
 - Developed the Peel Sustainable Development Strategy 2020, in partnership with Government, community and industry stakeholders across the region.
 - As part of Peel 2020, implemented a regional consultative structure to enable the ongoing partnership of Government, community and industry sectors in the social, economic and environmental development of the region.

- Constructed hardstand areas, platform ablutions, safety fencing and repaired heritage buildings at Pinjarra rail yards.
- Commenced planning for the Boddington Railway Station and Tullis to Boddington Railway.
- Assisted the Murray Shire Council with the Pinjarra Heritage Precinct and Townscape with funding towards the provision of underground power.
- Supported the attraction of \$1.2 million State government funding for the further development of Fairbridge Village.
- Assisted with the completion of preliminary plans for the redevelopment of the Mandurah Central Business District.
- Assisted with the completion of investigations into the establishment of a One Stop Shop Government Administration Centre in Mandurah.
- Implemented a contract with Curtin University to develop the Peel Heritage and Tourism Precinct.
- Increased expansion and development of the Peel Equine Industry through contributing funding for an executive officer position.
- Contributed to the development of the Peel Waterways Management Plan and assisted in the development of the Natural Resource Management Action Plan for the Peel-Harvey Catchment area.
- Assisted in the development and preparation of the Tuart Conservation Strategy and the implementation of the Community Communications Plan.
- Assisted in the preparation of the Development and Management Plan for the proposed Jarrahdale Heritage Park.
- Secured \$350,000 of Federal funds to advance the improvement of water quality in the Peel region through the development of a framework for Water Sensitive Design in the Peel-Harvey Catchment.
- Commenced the feasibility study for a Peel Regional Zoo.
- Facilitated a commitment by Murdoch University and the Federal Government, with support from the City of Mandurah, to establish a regional tertiary campus.
- Produced a detailed marketing campaign aimed at strengthening the image of the Peel region with a focus on growing tourism, attracting business and encouraging residential living in the region.
- Upgraded the Peel Strategic Information System (SISTEM) to integrate with sustainable development policies.
- Enhanced partnerships with Aboriginal people, Aboriginal organisations and the Aboriginal community and provided advice, leadership and promotion of Aboriginal economic development in the Peel Region.
- Assisted in the establishment of a wide area network involving the five Local Government Authorities and the sharing of IT resources.
- Developed a Peel Ambassador program to promote the Peel region.
- Erected new regional identity signs "Peel –Your Natural Choice".
- Delivered a regional Information Seminar on the subject of Genetically Modified Organisms and Biotechnology to the region's community.

(5) Major Achievements for 2001/2002:

- Established the Mandurah CBD Redevelopment Task Force to plan the redevelopment of the Mandurah city centre.
- Facilitated the distribution to the Regional Development Scheme grant funding of \$400,000 to successful applicants.
- Established a Peel partnership framework to mobilise additional financial and human resources in support of regional development.
- Assisted the re-establishment of the Mandurah Water Rescue Group in the Mandurah Ocean Marina.
- Assisted the development of the Aboriginal business sector and the promotion of Aboriginal economic and social values.

- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Commission and Curtin University for the development of the Peel Heritage and Tourism Precinct.
- Developed a business attraction package for the Peel region.
- Established the Peel Horse Industry Council to develop the Peel Equine Industry.
- Assisted in attracting to Mandurah the inaugural Mandurah Opera Festival as part of the 2002 Perth International Arts Festival.
- Assisted in the development of the Peel Waterways Management Plan.
- Assisted in the development of the Natural Resource Management Action Plan for the Peel-Harvey area.
- Assisted in the legal formation of Peel Harvey Catchment Council.
- Assisted in the preparation of the Conservation Plan for the built and natural environment for Jarrahdale Heritage Park.
- Produced the Peel Away the Mask report that outlines the fragile social condition of the Peel region.
- Produced a detailed marketing research report on strengthening the image of the Peel region with a focus on growing tourism, attracting business and encouraging residential living in the region.
- Established the Peel Regional Leadership Group.
- Upgrading of the Peel Strategic Information System (SISTEM) to integrate with sustainable development policies.
- Enhanced partnerships with Aboriginal people, Aboriginal organisations and the Aboriginal community and provided advice, leadership and promotion of Aboriginal economic development in the Peel Region.
- Assisted the Peel Region Tourism Association with the implementation of Peel Tour (Ecommerce for Tourist operators).
- Assisted in the campaign to retain Peel Thunder in the WA Football League for 2002 season.
- Assisted in the establishment of a wide area network involving the five Local Government Authorities and the sharing of IT resources.

(6) Major Achievements for 2000/2001:

- Completed relocation of Permanent Tenants from Peninsula Caravan Park to allow further development of Mandurah Ocean Marina.
- Established the Peel Centre for Water Excellence Website and funded six innovative water related regional research projects.
- Progressed implementation of the Peel Economic Development Strategy.
- Construction of departure facilities and carriage maintenance workshops as part of the Peel Region Tourist Railway at Pinjarra.
- Conservation Plan undertaken for the Jarrahdale Heritage Park.
- Assisted the completion of the Boddington Resource Centre.
- Secured Geographical Indication for the Peel Wine Region.
- Assisted in the development of the Centre for New Technology in the Mandurah Senior College.
- Managed the implementation of Aboriginal Cultural Tours, amalgamated key regional Aboriginal youth groups and showcased the Peel Aboriginal Community through a Photographic Exhibition.
- Advanced negotiations to secure property for the Boddington Open Range Zoo.
- Completed the Peel Regional Economic Development Opportunities Audit.
- Implemented Phase 2 of Peel Rural Technology Centre training to Waroona, Boddington and Serpentine /Jarrahdale.
- Distributed \$68,000 via community grants program to 23 community-based projects in the region.
- Peel SISTEM document produced providing information to the Peel region community on key regional strategies, actions & achievements.

- Commenced detailed market research for the Peel region.
 - Regional signs placed at strategic entry points throughout the Peel region with the Peel Region Brand WA Logo.
 - Implemented Peel SportRec online network & assisted Fairbridge with computer training room that incorporates Peel Youthnet.
 - Facilitated the establishment of retransmission facilities for ABC & SBS Television services in the Mandurah/Murray area.
 - Assisted the Peel Aboriginal community in gaining access to State and Commonwealth Funding initiatives for economic programs and projects.
- (7) Major Achievements for 1999/2000:
- Development of the Mandurah Ocean Marina.
 - Marina sea wall completed.
 - Implementation of the Peel Economic Development Strategy
 - Establishment of the Peel Olives Association.
 - Staged development of the WA Rail Heritage Centre
 - Staged development of the Pinjarra Cultural Precinct
 - Staged development of the Jarrahdale Heritage Park
 - Establishment of the Peel Economic Development Unit.
 - Supported the development of the Peel Senior Secondary Campus in Mandurah.
 - Supported the development of the Waroona and Serpentine/Mundijong Telecentres.
 - Developed a Peel Integrated Online Communication System for Regional Development (PEEL SISTEM).
 - Production of Peel Video – Peel your natural choice.
 - CASOC Online Conference Mandurah.
 - Telecommunications developed including PDC Webpage; Peel E Communities Seniors Net etc.
 - Development of Peel Local Government Net.
 - Development of a Peel Region Promotion and Marketing campaign.
 - Peel Leadership Courses.
 - Creation of the Peel Youth Forum.
 - Completed a Regional Skills Audit for the Peel Region.
- (8) The percentage of estimated total budget allocated to wages for the current year for the South West Development Commission (SWDC) is nil, however 12.49% is allocated to salaries for the current year.
- (9) The number of people employed by the South West Development Commission is 24.
- (10)
- (i) Chief Executive Officer
 - (ii) Executive Officer
 - (iii) Manager, Regional Services
 - (iv) Manager, Industry and Business Services
 - (v) Manager, Corporate Services
 - (vi) Manager, Information and Marketing Services
 - (vii) Senior Projects Officer, Capital Works
 - (viii) Regional Coordinator – Vasse
 - (ix) Regional Coordinator – Bunbury Wellington
 - (x) Regional Coordinator – Warren Blackwood
 - (xi) Project Officer – Infrastructure
 - (xii) Business Development Officer
 - (xiii) TradeStart Advisor
 - (xiv) Aboriginal Economic Development Officer
 - (xv) Grants Officer
 - (xvi) Project Officer

- (xvii) Senior Corporate Communication and Marketing Officer
- (xviii) Corporate Communication Officer
- (xix) Policy and Research Officer
- (xx) Research Officer
- (xxi) Finance and Human Resource Assistant
- (xxii) Finance and Information Technology Office
- (xxiii) Administration Officer
- (xxiv) Customer Service Officer

(11) 2002/03 Achievements

Physical Infrastructure

- Construct the Peel Deviation (Mandurah bypass road) - an action plan has been agreed to in discussion with the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure and timetable set.
- Ensure South Western Highway does not fail performance standards for vehicle movements - prepared detailed briefing notes on the funding requirements for the South Western Highway for the Minister for the South West and for the Cabinet at its meeting in Donnybrook in February 2003.
- Maximise small town access to sewerage targeting flood prone and development potential areas - the timelines for the construction of infill sewerage in Pemberton were pushed back in the 2001/02 State Budget. These were not altered in the 2002/03 Budget.
- Ensure there is a supply of appropriately zoned industrial land at strategic locations - established a working party consisting of SWDC, LandCorp and Wesfarmers Premier Coal to investigate a proposal for a major industrial park at Collie. Commencing planning for future development of industry lots at the Picton Enterprise Park. As part of the planning process to Preston Industrial Park, Department for Planning and Infrastructure coordinated meetings with stakeholders to commence implementation of strategies contained in the Industry 2030 planning policy. Obtained development approval for a \$12 million renewable fuel facility at Picton.
- Promote industry development within small towns – the Warren Blackwood industrial site study, partly funded by the Commission, was released for public comment in May 2003. Provided advice and information to the shires of Boyup Brook and Bridgetown at various times during the year on their industrial land needs. This included a market survey in Bridgetown.
- Identify options to manage drainage at the Nannup Mill - completed the Nannup Mill drainage strategy.
- Redevelop former rail reserve in Manjimup's CBD as a stimulus to CBD renewal - inclement weather has delayed completion. Project is 90 per cent complete.
- Improve the quality of the Pemberton main street as a basis for attracting tourism investment - funded the Pemberton main street engineering study with a grant through the State Government's Regional Development Scheme. A community and government agency consultation and planning strategy is being developed.
- Assist the Shire finalise a plan for redevelopment of the Bridgetown main street - project development subject to community consultation within Bridgetown.
- Ensure the South West Interconnected System is capable of meeting power demands for industry and residential growth – completed an evaluation of power supply and requirements to enable expansion of the dairy industry. Advice has been forwarded to the Minister for the South West and Minister for Energy. The opportunity to supply power to Donnybrook utilising the power supply to a proposed chip mill is no longer available due to the WA Plantation Resources bluegum chipping project not proceeding. Western Power is investigating alternative options.
- Ensure passenger rail services meet the needs of South West residents. Ensure effective plans are in place for future expansion of passenger rail services where viable - finalised the review of passenger rail services in the South West in conjunction with the Department for Planning and Infrastructure. Report released for public comment (closed 30 May 2003). Steering committee to make recommendations to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure in July/August 2003.
- Position the Bunbury Port as the State's second port of choice, including expansion of the port and development of container services – completed a study into the potential for a container handling facility at the Port of Bunbury. The Port has subsequently called for expressions of interest in a container service. Funding was approved in the 2003/04 State Budget for container handling equipment.

The Department for Planning and Infrastructure and Main Roads are currently finalising a detailed report into the Port access.

- Assist tourism in Pemberton through development of a unique hydroelectric power heritage energy project - finalised civil works including new town water supply and supply to the aquaculture research station. Project completion scheduled for January 2004.
- Enhance Bunbury's waterfronts including Koombana Beach, Rocky Point and Back Beach - completed Koombana Bay foreshore redevelopment. Rocky Point redevelopment completed. Community consultation commenced in relation to Back Beach.
- Improve public amenity including Eaton Foreshore Lighting, Bunbury High School Sports Ground and Leschenault Peninsula - completed Eaton Foreshore lighting. New school/public sports ground completed at Bunbury. Assisted Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) with concept planning for the Leschenault Peninsula. CALM completed the John Boyle O'Reilly heritage trail and associated visitor centre.

Economic Development

- Promote investment in the South West through the Invest South West strategy - supported three overseas exhibitions of South West produce. Hosted seven visiting delegations of overseas investors. Produced an industry attraction video/CD ROM. Researched and produced a report on the potential for investment into Western Australia from Dutch dairy and pig farmers. Provided technical advice to over 400 business organisations within the South West.
- Promote the diversification of small town economies in the region - completed planning and established a working group to finalise design and commence works for the enhancement of the western entrance to Collie. Assisted in securing \$500,000 for implementation of the Collie Entrance Tourism Precinct project from the State Government's Regional Investment Fund. Established a working group to undertake detailed planning for the Western Five Lake project, aimed at restoring coal mine voids into recreation areas, at Collie. Supported Motoring South West Inc to expand and upgrade the Collie Motorplex sprint circuit via a grant of \$750,000 from the Regional Investment Fund. Lease agreement with CALM and Wesfarmers Premier Coal is nearing completion. Assisted the Shire of Busselton in securing a grant of \$500,000 from the Regional Investment Fund for construction of the Busselton Jetty Underwater Observatory. SWDC is working to progress the Collie and Yarloop Rail Heritage projects. Completion of the Collie railway rolling stock sheds is near completion and work on the replica railway station has commenced. Funded a feasibility study into the establishment of an olive press in the Boyup Brook area.
- Build relationships with Commonwealth agencies as a basis for improving investment in the region - completed contractual arrangements with the Commonwealth Government to promote the region's export capability through the TradeStart program.
- Promote Indigenous economic development through the promotion of Noongar art forms - through the Noongar Arts Program, provided opportunities for local Aboriginal artists by organising four exhibitions throughout the South West Region and participating in the Premier's Reconciliation Exhibition during October-December 2002. Managed the promotion of Aboriginal designed textiles inspired by the South West in Malaysia. Commenced promotion of the Noongar Six Seasons concept. Noongar culture acknowledges six seasons in a year, not four. Promoted links with the Agent General's Office in London.
- Improve coordination of investment attraction at the local government business level by supporting economic alliances - the Commission provided financial and technical support to Business Grow, Warren Blackwood Economic Alliance and Bunbury Wellington Economic Alliance.
- Ensure the implementation of the 'Protecting Our Old Growth Forests' Policy results in tangible benefits to the region (The policy is aimed at supporting the timber industry after ceasing logging in old growth forests.) - continued to facilitate the implementation of the Forest Industry Structural Adjustment Package with respect to industry attraction and community development. Provided \$478,972 to a range of community and economic development programs in the Warren Blackwood sub-region. Projects included the community purchase of the Sotico timber mill and village at Northcliffe (known as the Northcliffe Timber Cluster project), a general package and early planning for the Manjimup Processing Centre site. Work is underway to develop a high-value wood manufacturing business on the site, continuation of Shire Youth and Community Development Officers, continued support for TAFE access and continued support of emergency accommodation project.

- Supported the South West Regional Investment Tour providing exposure for local business proposals.
- Supported the further development of the seed potato industry at Scott River.

I.T. and E-Commerce

· Increase the level of information technology use within the region through the South West Online Program (South West Online is a \$5.5 million State Government commitment aimed at bringing about improvements in technology and e-commerce in the region.) - completed and released the telecommunications infrastructure and opportunity study and best practice study for public comment. The public comment period is complete and a strategy to address the outcomes is being developed. Continued to coordinate the South West Online Strategy in consultation with key stakeholders. Established Connect South West Association Inc to manage the e-commerce training facility and expansion of Mysouthwest as a business, community and government portal. Funded the development of a new business, community and government web portal based on Mysouthwest. E-commerce training and development program funded, targeting small and medium business entering e-commerce for the first time. Completed business case to assist the development of private call centre services as a basis for stimulating available infrastructure. Funded planning for the e-library to be established in conjunction with the Bunbury City Council to provide electronic interactivity to library services. The City of Bunbury employed a consultant to develop the business plan for the e-library. The plan is now complete. Finalised criteria for an ECU E-Commerce PhD program.

- Increase access to High Speed Data transmission services - access points and regional standards identified.
- Improving free-to-air broadcasts - the free-to-air broadcasting strategy (including technical delivery and potential funding sources) for Walpole and Northcliffe was pursued.
- Improve Boyup Brook mobile telephone coverage - completed July 2002.
- Public/Private partnerships to enhance the region's telecommunications - a strategy to tap into Commonwealth Government funds for the further development of telecommunications infrastructure is being developed.

Sustaining and Developing Communities

· Ensure the region has effective natural resource management strategies in place - assisted, advised and maintained representation on South West Catchments Council, Tuart Response Group, and Peel South West Coastal Management Group. Wellington Forest Advisory Committee was maintained as a sub-committee of the SWDC Board. Currently members are acting as the Wellington National Park Community Advisory Committee for the purpose of assisting the Department of Conservation and Land Management to draft a management plan for the Wellington National Park and nearby conservation parks. The draft plan is expected to be available for public comment later in 2003. Business plan for the South West Catchments Council, funded by SWDC, has been completed. Continued to assist in the development of a coastal management plan from Maidens to Leschenault Peninsula. Liaised with City of Bunbury, which has established a community advisory committee for the development of the plan, and provided all coastal management reports prepared by SWDC relating to this area.

· Develop leadership skills within small communities to enable development and implementation of local action plans - developed a community leadership training package in partnership with University of Western Australia and the South West Community Builders group. Assisted in the development of the Balingup Vintage aged care program. Administered the South West Regional Development Grants Program providing funding to 22 small and medium development projects across the region. Administered the South West Events program providing funding to 24 events and festivals within the region. Finalised SWDC Community Development Programme funded through the 'Protecting Our Old Growth Forests' Policy for the Warren Blackwood Sub-region. Assisted the completion of a South West Youth Strategy and continued to focus on community and youth leadership programs in the region. Assisted the Northcliffe Cultural and Interpretive Centre Committee to obtain grant funding of \$200,000 from the Commonwealth Government and \$100,000 from the State Government collocation scheme.

· Ensure visitor support services meet best practice standards - funded community consultation and business plan development for a South West Indigenous Cultural Centre. Completed project planning and initial consultation for the implementation of tourist bureau best practice guidelines and associated training. Finalised planning for the development of a central marketing hub for Living Windows and Working Life heritage trails.

- The Commission provided funding to assist the redevelopment of the Pemberton Recreation Centre and the construction of the Bridgetown Recreation Centre.

Informing the Community

- Planning for the future of the South West Region with community endorsement - took into account other State planning documents, recognising previous community consultation.
- Ensure strategic assets of the region are marketed effectively - improved positive perceptions of the Warren Blackwood by 22 per cent through the Where's Warren marketing campaign, which was also expected to inject an additional \$7 million into the sub-regional economy in the 12 months since the campaign began. Finalised development of a marketing strategy for Kemerton Industrial Park. Produced a South West lifestyle documentary. Maintained current and accurate South West information service (web site, brochures, statistics and research information) – dealt with 550 enquiries (by topic). Updated and reprinted SWDC and regional profile brochures. Produced regular SWDC newsletter 'Regionwide'. Maintained up-to-date online South West Events Calendar. Provide hard copies as requested.

(12) 2001/02 Achievements

Physical Infrastructure

- Peel Deviation - a working group of local government and Commission representatives developed an action framework to promote the Peel deviation.
- South Western Highway - recognised upgrade of highway as a priority issue for 2002/03.
- Infill Sewerage - Nannup infill sewerage completed.
- Industrial Land - in partnership with LandCorp, developed and released six general industry lots at the Picton Enterprise Park. Assisted in identifying industrial land options at Boyup Brook, Pemberton, Manjimup and Collie.
- Small Town Industrial Strategy - undertook an industrial site review with Boyup Brook, Bridgetown-Greenbushes and Manjimup.
- Nannup Mill Drainage - drainage study commenced.
- Westrail Land Redevelopment – Manjimup - assisted in facilitating funding towards the development of the former Westrail land at Manjimup.
- Pemberton Main Street - assisted the redevelopment of the main street at Pemberton through direct input into planning and fund-raising campaign.
- Bridgetown Main Street - recognised as a priority issue for 2002/03.
- Power Distribution - identified options and sought funding for the introduction of reticulated power at Windy Harbour. The final 13 kilometres of the East Northcliffe three-phase power line was completed using funding facilitated by the Commission providing adequate supply to expanded dairy operations in the area. Commenced a study into the provision of power to dairy farming areas, in conjunction with Western Power and the WA Farmers Federation. Investigated the upgrading of power to Donnybrook townsite through the utilisation of the proposed line to service the proposed wood chip mill.
- Rail - continued to participate in the review of passenger rail services in the South West with the final report expected to be completed in the latter half of 2002.
- Port - continued to support Bunbury Port Authority in its bid to develop a container market.
- Koombana Beach Enhancement - assisted in the planning of landscaping improvements for the Koombana Foreshore.
- Eaton Foreshore Lighting - completed.
- Bunbury High School Sports Ground – completed.
- Bunbury Coastal Enhancement - finalised planning for Stage 1 of the Bunbury Coastal Enhancement Landscape Development. Finalised all outstanding research into coastal processes at Bunbury's Back Beach.
- Leschenault Peninsula/John Boyle O'Reilly - assisted planning of the Leschenault Peninsula including the John Boyle O'Reilly Heritage trail and associated visitor centre. Government policy commitment.

Economic Development

- Invest South West - provided advice to 207 business proponents through the Invest South West programme. Facilitated two bankers' briefings in the Warren Blackwood area of the South West. Coordinated the development of a promotional video and information kits as part of the State bid for the Pechiney aluminium project.
- Small Town Diversification Strategy - continued to assist the development of the Augusta Eco Museum through the development of a business plan. Established the South West Industrial Heritage Trail "Working Life" with 18 heritage sites registered to form a management structure, quality standards and joint marketing strategy. Commenced planning for the Collie Tourism Precinct. Commenced planning for the proposed water ski resort at Collie.
- Commonwealth Alliances - recognised as a new priority for 2002/03.
- Indigenous Economic Development - coordinated the development of the Noongar Arts Industry (Moorditj) by exposing Noongar art to the domestic and international markets.
- Economic Alliances - continued to support the establishment of the Bunbury Wellington Economic Alliance and the Warren Blackwood Economic Alliance. Continued to financially support Business Grow.
- Implementing 'Protecting Our Old Growth Forests' Policy - contributed to the implementation of the Forest Industry Structural Adjustment Package with respect to industry attraction and community development. Undertook the Warren Blackwood Horticultural Conference providing a focus for future development of the region's horticulture industry.
- Industry Support - conducted a study into business opportunities in the specialty dairy industry and held a seminar for farmers, investors and consultants to inform on the results of the study.

I.T. and E-Commerce

- Online Library - commenced development of the State Government's South West Online Strategy.
- Online Regional Information - commenced development of the State Government's commitment to support e-commerce and web portal development.
- Free to Air Broadcast - commenced study to examine options for delivering ABC and other radio services to the communities of Walpole and Northcliffe.
- Boyup Brook Mobile - completed July 2002.

Sustaining and Developing Communities

- South West Futures - recognised as a new priority for 2002/03.
- Government Service Audit - continuation of previous work in this area recognised as a priority for future action.
- Environmental Support - assisted, advised and maintained representation on South West Catchments Council, Tuart Response Group, and Peel South West Coastal Management Group. Wellington Forest Advisory Committee maintained as a sub-committee of the SWDC Board.
- Community Development - supported a feasibility study into a proposed Centre of Forest Products in the Shire of Manjimup, as part of the RFA restructure. Conducted a youth expo in Manjimup focusing on youth needs in the region.
- Local Government Relations - local government liaison is an ongoing activity.
- Visitor Support - contributed to planning for an Indigenous Cultural Centre at Bunbury by facilitating network meetings between the Noongar community and relevant agencies.
- South West Regional Development Scheme - completed 2001/02 scheme.

Informing the Community

- South West Information/Marketing - coordinated the development and implementation of the Warren Blackwood Subregional Marketing Campaign, which was aimed at raising the awareness of the Warren Blackwood, particularly in the Perth Metropolitan area, as an excellent region in which to visit, live and invest. Assisted in the marketing of the Kemerton Industrial Park to industry proponents. Provided advice to the Collie Shire Council and coal industry representatives on opportunities to market coal reserves within the shire leading to a broad promotional strategy being undertaken by the industry. Completed the redevelopment of the Commission's website. The new site provides a comprehensive,

high quality, South West information resource that is servicing local, regional, State, national and international clients. Dealt with 675 enquiries for statistics and information.

(13) 2000/01 Achievements

Physical Infrastructure

- Establish South West Regional Transport Advisory Group to ensure the outcomes of the Southern Province Transport Strategy are met - the Transport Advisory Group was established and identified key strategic transport targets for the region. Implementation tasks were identified and adopted by the Department of Transport and focused on road access, the development of the Port of Bunbury and passenger rail transport services.
- Review passenger rail transport to and within the South West Region with the Department of Transport, Westrail, and local government - Passenger Rail Working Group established and completed market evaluation.
- Continue support of the Regional TIRES group with the objective of forming a plan for the local road requirements of the bluegum plantation timber industry – completed a technical analysis of transport requirements, detailing haulage routes and likely tonnages for both local and main roads. The involvement of industry has led to innovation in transport equipment and planning to reduce conflict and physical impacts on local roads.
- Support the Bunbury Port Authority in its bid to develop a container market - support provided for container market feasibility assessment. Facilitated port access route planning to ensure future expansion of the port is not constrained by urban encroachment.
- Facilitate the development of highway routes from Perth to Bunbury, free of congestion points, particularly the Peel Deviation - alliance developed between local government, chambers of commerce and the respective development commissions to lobby for the Peel Deviation. Traffic count data supports the need to construct the deviation.
- Improve access to the Port of Bunbury from Kemerton and the South Western Highway at Picton - plans for the Port Access Service Corridor are complete and in the draft region scheme.
- Support the extension of three phase power within east Northcliffe and Scott River - successfully secured funding of \$500 000 and facilitated the provision of three-phase power to dairies within East Northcliffe.
- Support the extension of the gas pipeline to Manjimup - assisted in preliminary planning for a pipeline route.
- Support green waste management through innovative compost research - conducted research trials in partnership with the CSIRO and AgWA, which demonstrated the value of compost in reducing water and fertiliser requirements in selected horticulture and viticulture crops.
- Facilitate and promote tertiary level research facilities in waste management in Manjimup - links formed between Manjimup High School and Curtin University to research waste to energy opportunities and education.
- Pursue infill sewerage programs for Northcliffe and Nannup to assist tourism and residential development - \$250 000 was provided to part fund the early development of infill sewerage at Nannup, in partnership with the Water Corporation and BRL Hardy.
- Finalise the development of industrial land at Picton - entered into a joint venture with LandCorp to develop the final stage of Bunbury's Picton Enterprise Park. The development is valued at approximately \$1.5 million.

Economic Development

- Establish Invest South West Program to assist business locate and expand in the region - established a specialist unit, which directly assists 20 to 30 businesses each month with planning and infrastructure requirements.
- Continue industry briefings - held 65 industry briefings with a specific focus on promoting Buy Local in government purchasing.
- Encourage aquaculture development at Pemberton, Collie and Augusta - assisted the development of expanded TAFE training in aquaculture at Pemberton and provided \$10 000 for the further development of ponds. Provided funding assistance of \$5 000 to develop a business plan for an aquaculture centre of excellence supporting mine void rehabilitation at Collie and assisted proponents of an abalone development at Augusta.

- Attract major resource projects - held discussions with several major industry proponents.
- Link local capacity to national and overseas projects - the Commission jointly led a trade mission to South Africa and Mozambique targeting the Maputo Industrial Park. Two potential contracts flowed from the mission.
- Continue support of Business Grow - provided direct sponsorship and technical support. Program assisted 1856 businesses.
- Assist horticulture to diversify and find new markets - supported two grower groups and identified new markets for seed potato.
- Support the dairy industry to accommodate change - assisted farmers with on-farm diversification planning. Sourced funding of \$16 500 to implement a marketing study into specialty cheese and dairy product.
- Support value adding to the region's timber industry - assisted with the development of options for the re-opening of the Greenbushes timber mill and the continuation of the Nannup Mill.
- Support eco-tourism through Living Windows - Living Windows moves into its fourth year of operation with the South West Ecomuseum Association accepting responsibility for promotion.
- Commence the first stage of the Industrial Heritage Trail - launched Working Life in late 2000
- Develop a Heritage Energy precinct at Pemberton - work has commenced on the reconstruction of the Pemberton hydroelectric project.
- Continue to fund the Bunbury Wellington Economic Alliance - provided funding of \$65 000 as well as technical assistance to assist with the establishment of the Alliance.

I.T. and E-Commerce

- Pursue mobile telephony at Nannup and Boyup Brook - successfully established service at Nannup. Sourced funding of \$200 000 to implement a service at Boyup Brook.
- Continue the South West Information Technology Advisory Service - conducted 50 workshops and provided support to 320 people through a freecall 1800 telephone service.

Sustaining and Developing Communities

- Assist the strategic development of small business in country towns - briefings on the State Buy Local Policy held in key centres.
- Continue 2029 youth leadership program - successfully re-established the Runaway Bus Program, which serviced 2330 clients.
- Continue Small Town Economic Planning Program - several workshops were held throughout the region, and led to the development of community endorsed action plans.
- Support Mainstreet Program development at Harvey, Bridgetown and Dunsborough - Programs successfully supported through grants and staff resources.
- Continue the Cultural Tourism Grants Program - 35 festivals were supported during the year generating an estimated flow-on expenditure of \$1 470 700.
- Support a centre for wine excellence in Margaret River - assisted with completion of feasibility and business planning.
- Support improved access to technical and tertiary education - supported TAFE to expand services in the Warren Blackwood. Continued planning support was provided to telecentres.
- Continue to inform government bodies on the growth of the region - provided regional information for decision-making.
- Support the development of the River Foreshore Park at Nannup - the Commission provided an executive officer to the Shire. Local support and industry sponsorship was mobilised leading to completion of stage one.

Informing the Community

- Develop a new marketing and promotional strategy for the region - a steering group incorporating business, tourism and local government stakeholders was formed and has produced a strategic framework to develop the marketing strategy.

- Review SWDC regional database and improve access to regional statistics - database was successfully reviewed. Regional data made available to the general public, specifically at a shire and industry level. Dealt with 631 inquiries over the year in review.
- Update the Commission's web site - completed detailed design and development, incorporating multi lingual capacity to assist in meeting the Commission's global objectives.
- Undertake a futures study to integrate the South West with the Future Perth Strategy - contributed to studies targeting South West economic systems analysis as part of the Future Perth Strategy.

(14) 1999/2000 Achievements

- The South West Information Technology Advisory Service commenced operation providing an innovative mobile advisory service to small and medium enterprise throughout the South West Region.
- The Commission in partnership with the Busselton Shire Council coordinated the Royal visit to Busselton and was able to showcase the region's produce to the world.
- Design works on behalf of the Bunbury Coastal Enhancement Steering Committee were finalised and Cabinet approval obtained to proceed.
- The South West Focus 2000 Conference was held in November 1999 providing a major forum for an exchange of views and ideas on the future of the South West Region.
- Small town economic development strategies were undertaken at Pemberton, Northcliffe, Greenbushes, Collie, Nannup and Boyup Brook, together with ongoing support for Mainstreet programs at Harvey and Bridgetown.
- The Value of Tourism Study was completed providing the first comprehensive analysis of the tourism industry throughout the South West Region. The Commission is also a partner in a major research and action learning program that will examine opportunities for the development of the tourism industry throughout the Bunbury Wellington area.
- The Commission established the South West TIRES (Timber Industry Road Evaluation Study) Group to guide the development of an investment case for a Commonwealth contribution towards the transport needs of the emerging plantation timber industry.
- The Industry Development Adviser Program provided a series of critical briefings on major construction projects in the South West Region and overseas. Advice was provided on construction projects in South Africa and Mozambique together with major local projects such as Main Roads Term Network Contracts. The program continued to work closely with Business Grow to deliver 80 specialised training and briefing programs for small and medium sized enterprises.
- Two industry forums were held to review procurement practices within large industrial operations to improve local content. These were accompanied by industry briefings concerning the Regional Buying Compact. A forum for Chief Executive Officers and General Managers of major companies was also established to facilitate local alliances.
- The Commission led the development of the Bunbury Wellington Economic Alliance as a cooperative venture between the Commission, business and local government in the Bunbury Wellington area.
- The 2029 youth forum was held leading to the establishment of the 2029 Committee. A subcommittee of the Commission's board, 2029 is dealing with a wide range of regional youth issues including employment, training, education, health and drugs.
- An action plan for the development of a sustainable economic and social future for the Warren Blackwood area commenced.
- The establishment of a multi use communications mast and installation of mobile telephony was completed in Walpole.
- Five hundred and twenty nine enquiries for regional statistics and information (by topic) were dealt with during the year.
- Marketing material was provided to overseas investors in South Africa, the United Kingdom, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Germany and Singapore.
- The feasibility study into the development of a Centre of Excellence for the wine industry has been completed with the Commission now providing assistance for the finalisation of a business plan and the development of alliances between key education service providers.

- Assistance has been provided to the wine industry for the development of a wine industry data-base as a prerequisite to planning for the 2001 International Wine Expo.
- Tourism development opportunities at Augusta are being pursued with the Commission providing advice for the development of a significant aquaculture/tourism development and Augusta together with advice on tourism promotion.