

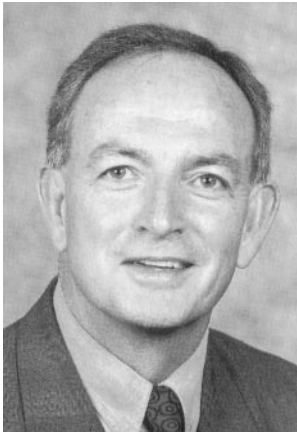
**Our Mission: To achieve sustainable economic and social development of the Gascoyne Region.  
A Better place to live.**



# **Gascoyne Development Commission**

## **2003/2004 Annual Report**





## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Hon TG Stephens, MLC  
Minister for Local Government and Regional Development;  
The Kimberley, Pilbara, Gascoyne and Goldfields-Esperance  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000

In accordance with Section 66 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985 and Section 32 of the Regional Development Commissions Act 1993, we hereby submit for your information and presentation to Parliament, the Annual Report of the Gascoyne Development Commission for the year ended 30 June 2004.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Leahy', on a light-colored background.

CHAIRMAN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. E. Jones', on a light-colored background.

S. E. Jones  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

30 July 2004

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Gascoyne Development Commission for the year 2003/2004.

We recently welcomed new members Benny Bellotti from Denham, Karl Brandenburg from Carnarvon and Doug Hunt from Coral Bay to our Board. Their enthusiasm and knowledge compliments the vast experience of sitting board members.

Our Chief Executive Officer Sue Jones has recruited Peter Taylor to the position of Senior Project Manager and together with an extremely competent and diversely skilled team they service and promote the needs of the Gascoyne region.

In 2003/04 we distributed \$537,000 from the Regional Development Scheme (RDS) and major beneficiaries were the local Shires, Sweeter Banana, Carnarvon Heritage Group, Marine Farms, the Gascoyne Off Road Racing Club, the Carnarvon Yacht Club, Gascoyne Inland Aquaculture, the Gascoyne Telecommunications Working Group and Regional Based Alternatives, a sub group of the Gascoyne Murchison Strategy. More detail is provided in the Report on Activities.

During the past 12 months the following projects were completed:

- Stage One of the Gascoyne Murchison Outback Pathways;
- The Lower Gascoyne Management Strategy;
- Linking the Gascoyne – Untying the Knots forum;
- Education Workshop
- Pacific Flora; and
- Making Connections Leadership Course.

Significant progress has been made on:

- The Ningaloo Ocean and Earth Research Centre;
- Gascoyne Telecommunications Working Group;
- Lessons Learnt from Shark Bay World Heritage Listing;
- Gascoyne Works; and
- Our involvement with the Gascoyne Murchison Strategy through its Regional Based Alternatives Sub-Committee.

Pilyarli Yardi Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre is without doubt the most important current project for Carnarvon. In January 2004 Rory Whitelaw was appointed as General Manager of the Centre. The tender for construction has been let and initial site-works completed. We are confident that the building will be completed by the end of the 2004/05 financial year.

This project offers indigenous people in the Gascoyne a wonderful opportunity to share in the future prosperity and economic development of this region and we at the Commission are determined to see it successfully operating.

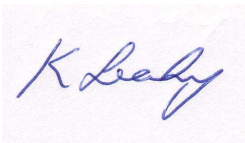
Two other two extremely important projects for the Gascoyne region are the Shark Bay World Heritage Interpretive Centre at Denham and the Ningaloo Ocean and Earth Research Centre at Exmouth. Each, at differing ends of the developmental stage, is progressing well. Whilst we may at times be frustrated by delays, it is essential that the planning phase for these projects is detailed and thorough to ensure their successful completion and sustainability.

The question often asked of the Gascoyne Development Commission is “what do you do?”. In this regard our title is somewhat of a misnomer as we are not a developer as such. We can not undertake development in our own right but can and do assist individuals, businesses and other organisations to identify and progress opportunities that provide economic and social benefits to the proponents and the region as a whole.

We welcome people with ideas who can approach the GDC for assistance in cutting through some of the bureaucratic red tape that sometimes impedes progress on very worthwhile ventures.

We are keen to let people know what we are doing and to publicise our achievements; to that end a regular report is circulated as a supplement in the Northern Guardian. This is one of the means by which we seek to positively interact with the Gascoyne communities. In other words, working together to realise the great opportunities that are here and making the Gascoyne a better place to live.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first couple of months in the Chair and look forward to working with the Board, staff and Government to ensure that the tremendous potential of the Gascoyne is fully realised.



CHAIRMAN  
30 July 2004

## GASCOYNE REGION

The Gascoyne Region of Western Australia is dissected by the Tropic of Capricorn and captures not only 600 km of Indian Ocean coast but also stretches 600 km inland beyond Mt Augustus and the Burringurrah Community. The Region consists of the Shires of Carnarvon, Exmouth, Shark Bay and Upper Gascoyne, and is fringed by the Mid West to the south and the Pilbara to the north.

The 138,000 square kilometre land area of the Gascoyne represents about 6 per cent of the State's total area and is approximately twice the size of Tasmania. The Gascoyne coastline incorporates internationally recognised features such as the Ningaloo Reef and the Shark Bay World Heritage Area. The hinterland includes the outstanding features of the Kennedy Ranges and Mt Augustus.

### Population

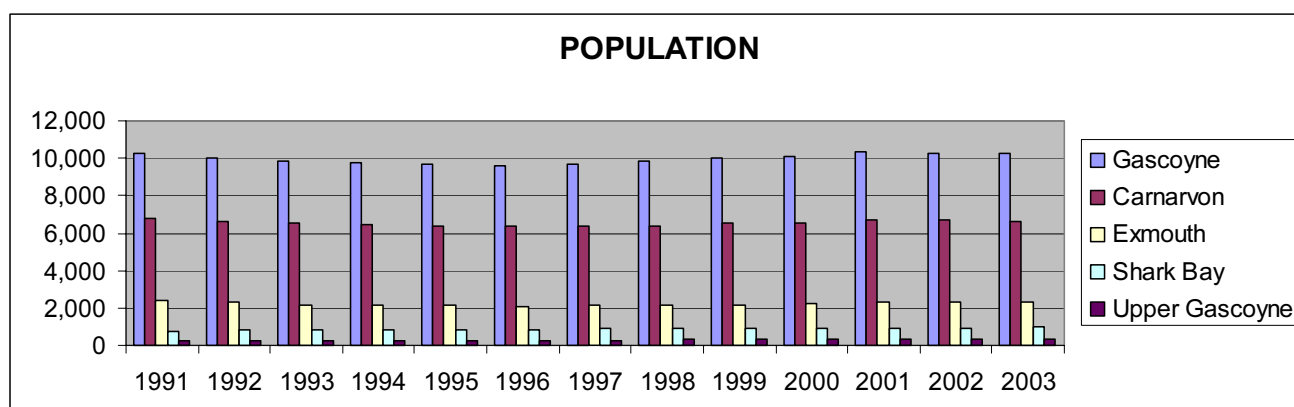
The town of Carnarvon is the administrative centre of the Region and the Carnarvon Shire has the largest population. In 2002, Carnarvon's population reached 6,715 residents, having grown on average by almost one per cent per year over the last five years.

<b>Population Distribution</b>						
<b>Shire</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003p</b>	<b>% of Region</b>
Carnarvon	6,520	6,566	6,723	6,715	6,622	65
Exmouth	2,190	2,262	2,306	2,283	2,296	22
Shark Bay	935	927	922	942	964	9
Upper Gascoyne	330	345	355	368	370	4
<b>GASCOYNE</b>	<b>9,975</b>	<b>10,100</b>	<b>10,306</b>	<b>10,308</b>	<b>10,252</b>	<b>100.0</b>

p = preliminary.

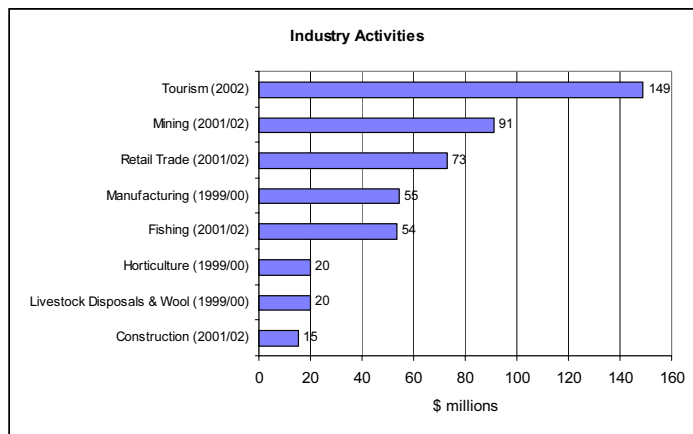
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics via Dept Local Gov't and Regional Development - Estimated Resident Population.

The Region currently makes up 0.5 per cent of the State population and 2 per cent of the population living in Regional Western Australia. Whilst the Gascoyne has the smallest population of all Western Australia's Regions, it attracts a large number of tourists and medium term visitors, particularly in winter months.



## Regional Economic Activity

The Gascoyne Region's economic activity is the most diverse of the State's Regions with important contributions being made by all sectors, dominated by tourism, fishing, mining, horticulture and pastoralism. These activities, together with an expanding tourism sector, contribute significantly to the development of Department of Local Government and Regional Development estimates show that the Gascoyne's Gross Regional Product was \$574 million in 2001/02.



Note: Industry activities are based on value of production, turnover and expenditure whereas Gross Regional Product is the value of final goods and services produced in the Region less intermediate inputs.  
Source: Department of Local Government and Regional Development.

The Region is a rich source of seafood, providing most of the State's prawns and scallops. Seafood processing is the Region's principal manufacturing activity, with export potential of this industry underlining its continued importance to the Region and the State. The fisheries in the Region are well managed with limited entry.

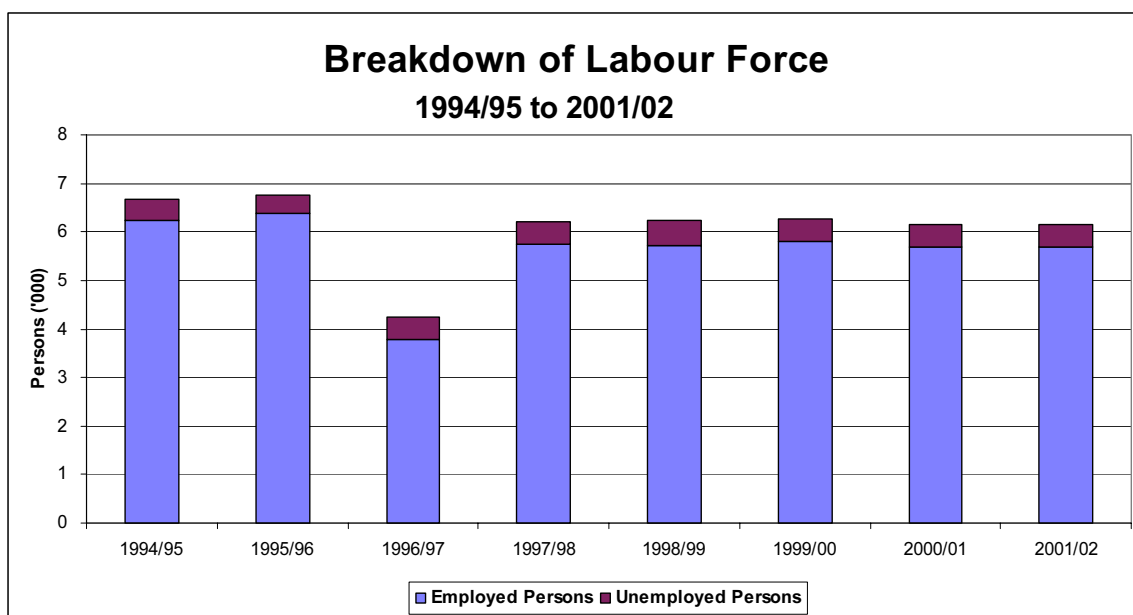
Horticulture, a major component of the economy, supplies up to 85 per cent of vegetables for the Perth and the South West markets during winter. The Region's producers are actively developing further export markets, central packing and new niche markets. Evaluation of additional water resources in the Region will soon allow the amount of irrigated land, and hence production, to be increased.

The pastoral industry occupies 80 per cent of the regional land area and has traditionally been based on wool production. In recent times the industry has faced extreme hardship due to depressed world markets for wool. Producers are increasingly taking up opportunities for diversification into cattle, sheep meats, feral goat harvesting and other industries. The Gascoyne Murchison Rangeland Strategy offered significant opportunities in pastoral improvement and is already demonstrating very significant gains.

The Region produces large quantities of salt and gypsum from operations at Lake Macleod and Useless Loop. In addition, beta carotene is being produced at Lake MacLeod.

Tourism continues as the fastest growing sector and visitors are estimated to spend about \$94 million annually in the Region. Promotional marketing, Regional branding and e-commerce underline this industry's expansion as exposure increases to the Region's relaxed lifestyle, superb climate, abundant marine life and outstanding natural beauty of the many conserved and protected unique features.

## Employment



Source: Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

Due to the small population base, employment figures in the Gascoyne Region vary considerably and small changes in local conditions impact significantly on percentage changes.

The primary industry focus of the Region's economy results in predominantly seasonal employment, particularly in the horticulture, fishing and tourism industries.

Given the natural attractions of the area, tourism is playing an increasingly important role in future employment prospects for the Region.

The Region's greatest challenge continues to be its ability to attract a wider range of higher skilled people and more consistent education, training and employment opportunities for its young residents.



## **CORPORATE PROFILE**

### **Ministerial Responsibility**

The Commission is responsible to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development; The Kimberley, Pilbara, Gascoyne and Goldfields-Esperance, the Hon Tom Stephens, MLC.

### **Legislation and Policy**

Proclamation of the Regional Development Commissions Act 1993 on 7 April 1994 established the Gascoyne Development Commission as a statutory authority. The Commission had previously operated as a government department in accordance with Section 21 of the Public Service Act 1978 from its inception in January 1993.

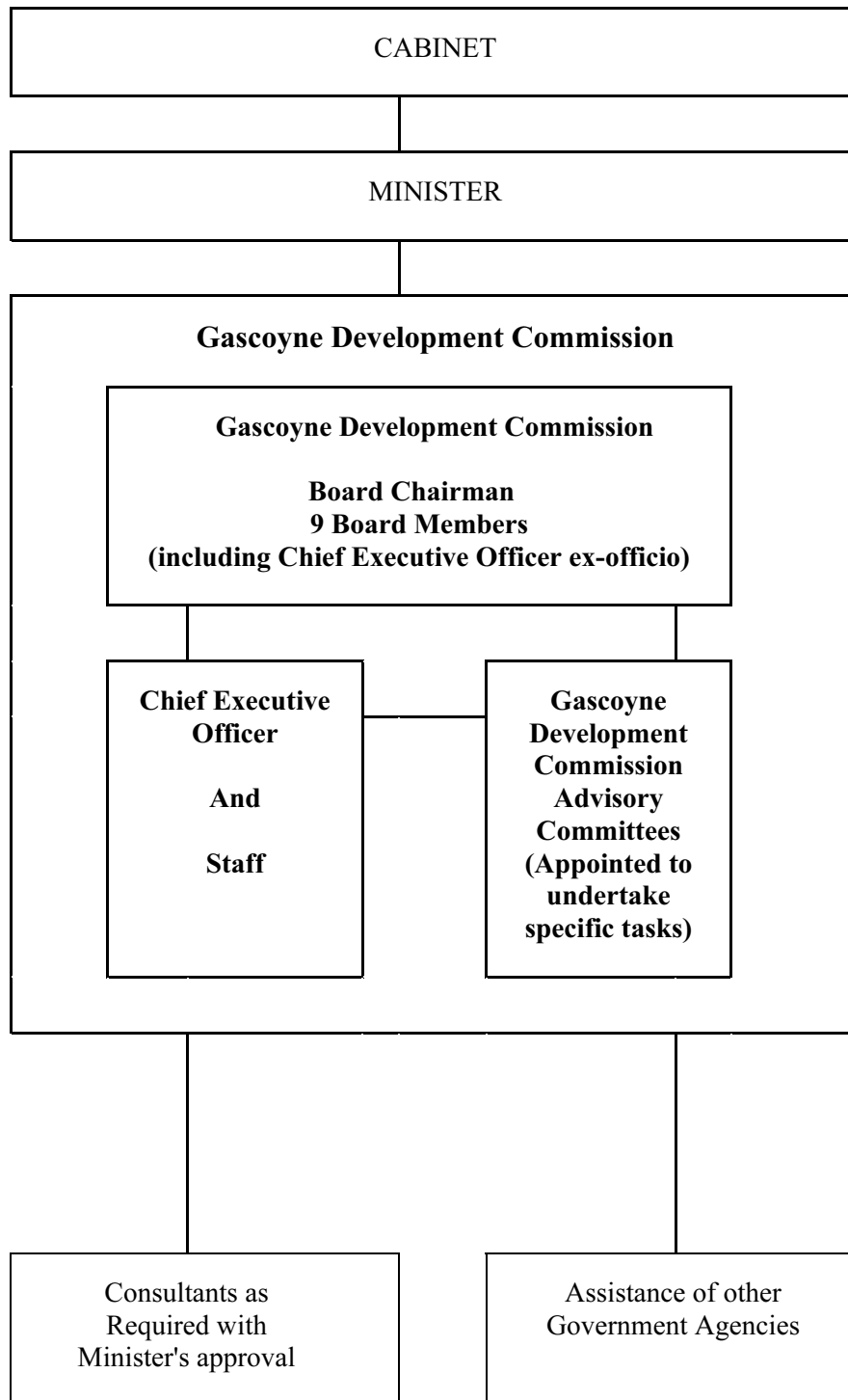
The Regional Development Commissions Act 1993, which created nine commissions including the Gascoyne Development Commission, states that the objects and functions of each commission are to:

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

By identifying and coordinating the responsibilities of a wide range of government agencies with Regional development charters, the Commission performs an important role in addressing needs and ensuring appropriate application of Government resources in its Region.

The Gascoyne Development Commission performs its functions in respect of the Region comprising the Shires of Carnarvon, Exmouth, Shark Bay and Upper Gascoyne.

## CORPORATE STRUCTURE



## **CORPORATE PURPOSE**

This annual report is presented in terms of the Commission's targeted outcome of Regional Development and its corporate outputs.

## **MISSION**

To achieve sustainable economic and social development of the Gascoyne Region - A better place to live.

The Gascoyne will be recognized as providing a great lifestyle and visitor experience through its diversity, good employment and investment opportunities, unique natural environment and climate.

## **PRIORITY AREAS**

- Business and Community Development and Support
- Infrastructure Development
- Tourism Development and Support
- Communication Improvement
- Promotion of Region
- Aboriginal Economic and Cultural Development
- Population Retention

## **VALUES**

The Gascoyne Development Commission is committed to:

- Provision of a high standard of service
- Innovation and flexibility in response to issues
- Continuous improvement
- Non-discriminatory service
- Consultation with clients
- Human resource development
- Environmentally sustainable development

## **DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

- Adaptive Communities
- Enhancing Lifestyles and Livelihoods
- Developing Wealth and Employment
- Developing Infrastructure
- Environment and Natural Resource Management
- Responsive Government

## **CORPORATE OUTPUT**

The Corporate output is Regional Development. The Commission's projects are currently aligned to the following areas to achieve regional development.

- Continuous improvement of policies, plans, strategies and position statements on key development issues and facilitation of their implementation to generate a methodical and coordinated approach to Regional development of the Gascoyne.
- Facilitation of greater unity and cohesion within the business community and encouragement of new business investment that is environmentally sustainable.
- Identification of needs and coordination of infrastructure development in the Outback Coast to generate employment, investment and sustainable economic and social growth.
- Identification of key economic, social and cultural infrastructure that will generate business growth as well as improve the quality of life for residents.
- Effective promotion of the Gascoyne's many investment opportunities, great lifestyle and unique natural environment and climate.

## **COMMISSION BOARD AND STAFF**

The Commission has a Board of Management comprising 9 members who are appointed by the Minister, and the Chief Executive Officer, by virtue of office. The Minister appoints the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman.

The Act prescribes that appointed members are to be selected, as far as possible, on the following basis:

One third of the members are to be nominated by local councils in the Region.

One third is to be persons who are resident in the Region and nominated from the community.

One third is to be appointed at the Minister's discretion.

The Board is the governing body with authority to perform the functions of the Commission and has delegated to the Chief Executive Officer the day to day management. The Board meets regularly to consider matters of economic and social importance to the Region, to formulate advice to the Minister on appropriate matters, to set policy directions for the Commission and to formulate budget priorities.

## **Board Membership**

Members of the Board at 30 June 2004 are:

### **Kevin Leahy [Chairman, Ministerial Appointment]**

Kevin has been in Carnarvon since 1983 and is a businessman with interests in an hotel, roadhouse, transport depot and a plantation. Kevin maintains an active community involvement, having previously served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly in Western Australia.

### **Richard Patty [Deputy Chairman, Community Appointment]**

Richard has been a resident of Carnarvon since 1994. He is the General Manager of Norwest Seafoods. Richard is a committee member on the Community Consultative Committee for the Shark Bay World Heritage Centre, the Carnarvon Chamber of Commerce and is an active member of various other local committees, including the MAC for the Carnarvon Land Backed Wharf.

### **Marshall Hipper [Local Government Appointment]**

Marshall has been a long time resident of Denham and currently runs Readymix in Denham and is the Maritime Pilot for the Useless Loop Salt operations. He is a Shire of Shark Bay Councilor and the President of the Denham Branch of the Liberal Party.

### **Peter Green [Ministerial Appointment]**

Peter has been a resident of Exmouth since 1970 and is currently a director of Balmon, a company involved in innovative water monitoring devices. Peter was a Councilor with the Shire of Exmouth until mid 2003 and is a key member of the Ningaloo Ocean & Earth Research Centre Steering Group.

### **Andy Munro [Ministerial Appointment]**

Andy is the Manager, External Affairs with Rio Tinto, of which Dampier Salt is a subsidiary and a major regional employer. Andy has 20 years personal and professional association with the Gascoyne, having previously resided in Carnarvon and traveled extensively throughout the region.

### **Douglas Hunt [Community Appointment]**

Doug is a long term resident of Coral Bay and business proprietor of Coral Bay Adventures. Doug has extensive experience in the fishing and tourism industries and is a member of the Northern Prawn Fishery Advisory Committee, Coral Bay Tourist Association and Coral Bay Progress Association.

### **Karl Brandenburg [Local Government Appointment]**

Karl is a long term resident of Carnarvon and owner/operator of U2 Bobcat Hire. Karl is a Councillor with the Shire of Carnarvon, a member of the Carnarvon Ningaloo Steering Committee, Gascoyne Floodplain Management Committee and an active member on many other local committees.

### **Veronica Fleay [Local Government Appointment]**

Ronnie is a resident of Exmouth and Proprietor/Manager of Ningaloo Marine Agencies. Ronnie is Deputy President of the Shire of Exmouth and representative on the Exmouth Townscape Advisory Committee, Exmouth Whale Shark Festival Committee and active member of other local committees.

### **Laurence Bellottie [Community Appointment]**

Benny, as he is known, has lived in the region his entire life and is a professional fisherman in Shark Bay. Benny is an Malgana Elder and is the Chairman of the Yadgalah Aboriginal Corporation and was previously an ATSIC Yamatji Regional Councilor for 3 years.

**Sue Jones [ex officio]**

Sue was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Commission in June 2003. Sue spent nearly 4 years in Exmouth as the Commander of the NCS Harold E. Holt Navy Base, as part of her 27 years serving in the Royal Australian Navy. She is Chair of the Shark Bay World Heritage Community Consultative Committee, a Member of the Rangelands Working Group and the Cape Range Ningaloo World Heritage Nomination Consultative Committee.

**Advisory Committees**

The Board may from time to time establish committees for the purpose of considering particular matters specified by the Board. The Gascoyne Telecommunications Working Group is currently operational, being a community-based advisory committee to the Gascoyne Development Commission to provide address all aspects of telecommunications issues and the needs of the Gascoyne region, rationalise and implement priority issues to meet the region's full potential and progress in line with the global community.

The interest and targets for activities include mobile phones, computer/internet access and affordability, satellite technology, broadcasting, video-conferencing and E-commerce.

The main functions of the Group are to:

- Advise Government, lobby service providers and other organisations to provide effective communications options for the region.
- Monitor changes in communications and their impact on Gascoyne communities.
- Provide information and advice on communications issues to the wider Gascoyne community.
- Assess, prioritise and implement communications requirements of the Gascoyne region.

The Group consists of eleven members, bringing in a blend of expertise and interests covering a broad spectrum encompassing information technology, telecommunication, radio communication, pastoral interests, education, corporate and small business sectors as well as Local and State Government.

The Group meets every three months to update on the progress of its own activities, and to discuss issues affecting the Gascoyne region.

A Gascoyne Education and Training Working Group is planned for formation in the latter half of 2004 to address the critical issue of regional provision of “K to Grey” learning opportunities.

## **Staff**

The Commission has ten full time staff. Staff positions at 30 June 2004 were:

**Sue Jones**, Chief Executive Officer

**Peter Taylor**, Senior Project Manager

**Fiona Shallcross**, Grants and Research Officer

**Jenny Payet**, Project Officer

**Rebecca Marsh**, Research and Project Officer

**Rowena Mitchell**, Aboriginal Economic Development Officer, (Contract)

**Chris Jones**, Manager, Corporate Services

**David Harding**, Project Officer (Part Time)

**Toni Lewis**, Executive Assistant

**Sarah Thomas**, Finance and Administration Assistant

**Tami Maitre**, Project Officer and Trade Start Assistant

**Mark Lucas**, Project Officer (Part Time)

**Kara Guglielmana**, Trainee

## **Staff movements from the Commission during the year:**

<b>Leanne Ryan</b>	contract completed
<b>Gail Bellotti</b>	contract completed
<b>Kim Antonio</b>	transferred
<b>Chris Carter</b>	resigned
<b>Lynne Mitchell</b>	contract completed
<b>Michelle Beer</b>	transferred
<b>Robert Panasiewicz</b>	transferred
<b>Andrew Beer</b>	secondment completed
<b>Barbara Duncan</b>	resigned

## **ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

The Commission Board and staff welcome public input to assist in the formulation of the Commission's policies and in the performance of the agency's functions. The Commission also draws on members of the community for working groups on specific projects.

Members of the public with an interest in Regional development, and particularly the development of the Gascoyne Region, are welcome to contact Board members or to visit the Commission staff to discuss relevant issues.

The Commission holds information from various sources in working files, feasibility studies and printed reports that are stored in the Commission's library. Information is usually provided free of charge. However, some documents or reports may require a contribution towards the printing costs.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act the information and documents of the Gascoyne Development Commission may be inspected.

Initial inquiries for access to information held by the Commission, other than those easily satisfied by a personal visit, should be forwarded to the Manager Corporate Services, Gascoyne Development Commission, PO Box 781, Carnarvon WA 6701.

The Commission has a web page at [www.gdc.wa.gov.au](http://www.gdc.wa.gov.au) with links to other Regional sites.



## REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

The activities of the Commission are focused on the attainment of the outcome of an environment conducive to the balanced economic and social development of the Gascoyne Region. The Commission produces annually a corporate strategy document entitled *Working for the Gascoyne – Directions and Strategies*. This document is available to the public and provides details of the Commission's planned activities for the coming financial year.

The Commission has the output to achieve regional development and seeks to attain results in four key areas (refer page 9):

Policies, Strategies and Plans  
Industry and Enterprise Development  
Infrastructure Identification Coordination  
Regional Promotion

Projects undertaken during the financial year are included in the following table and are described on the following pages.

### **Policies, Strategies and Plans**

Gascoyne Murchison Outback Pathways  
Regional Development Council  
Youth Coordinating Network  
Gascoyne Murchison Strategy  
Shark Bay Liaison  
Exmouth Liaison  
Upper Gascoyne Liaison  
Ningaloo Coastal Strategy  
Leadership Program  
Realms of Possibilities  
Barriers to Higher Education  
Linking the Gascoyne  
Tailored Input/Output Statistical Analysis

### **Infrastructure Identification and Co-ordination**

Ningaloo Ocean and Earth Research Centre  
Sustainable Research Centre Study  
Lessons Learned From World Heritage  
Gascoyne Health Survey and Register

### **Industry and Enterprise Development**

Aboriginal Tourism Product Development  
Aboriginal Employment and Enterprise Development  
Midwest Gascoyne Area Consultative Committee  
Burringarra Tourism Infrastructure  
Austrade  
Development Options in the LG Catchment  
Telecommunication Working Group  
Regional Development Scheme  
Community Economic and Social Development Group  
Community Mentoring  
Energy Management  
Pacific Flora  
Government Infrastructure  
Tourism Support

### **Regional Promotion**

Internet Home Page  
Destination Magazine  
Gascoyne Works  
GDC Minor Grants Scheme  
WA On Show

## **Policies, Strategies and Plans**

### **Gascoyne Murchison Outback Pathways**

The project has planned the development of an outback tourism pathway in the two regions. The pathway is designed to increase the productivity of the rangelands by developing the tourism industry to support pastoral activity. Stage included 43 interpretative sites along three historical self drive routes and tourism brochures for each of the pathways. Stage Two will further develop the Kingsford Smith and Wool Wagons Pathways and assist the development of tourism packages in the Gascoyne hinterland region.

### **Regional Development Council**

This project provides funds for the Commission Chairman and Chief Executive Officer to attend meetings and conferences of the Regional Development Council.

### **Youth Coordinating Network**

This project provides support to the Youth Advisory Council and young people in the Gascoyne Region and addresses youth issues at the local level where appropriate. The GDC will continue to participate in meetings and assist on an as need basis. The meetings provide a worthwhile interagency forum that provides insight to youth affairs in the community.

### **Gascoyne Murchison Strategy**

As a member of the Regional Based Alternatives subcommittee of the GMS, the Commission works in partnership with Agriculture WA, the Department of Commerce and Trade and the Midwest Development Commission to assist with restructure, diversification and Regional development issues in the Rangelands.

### **Shark Bay Liaison**

Funding is provided to support regular visits by Commission staff to liaise with Shark Bay business and community leaders.

### **Exmouth Liaison and Land Development**

The GDC maintains a presence in Exmouth to assist the second largest community in the Gascoyne to achieve its development potential. The largest project at present is the Exmouth Marina Development. The GDC staff member is co-employed by the Shire of Exmouth.

### **Upper Gascoyne Liaison**

Funding is provided to support regular visits by the Commission staff and an annual visit by the Board to the Upper Gascoyne Region to liaise with key business, local Government and community leaders.

### **Ningaloo Coastal Strategy**

This Strategy, nearing completion, identifies the most appropriate and sustainable long term tourism and development options for the coast within the study area, as well as the preferred vesting and management options for the conservation and recreation strip along the coast. The GDC has been integrally involved in the planning, and will continue to work with agencies during the implementation phase.

### **Leadership Program**

The Gascoyne was been awarded an Indigenous Leadership Program, Making Connections. Over 20 Aboriginal participants combined with Indigenous and Non Indigenous Service Providers took part in a 9 day Leadership Course. Follow up mentoring and learning continues.

### **Chefs Tour**

This project is to provide coordination and support during the planning period of a promotional and marketing initiative by members of the Gascoyne seafood industry which is focused on increasing their share of the Japanese seafood market.

### **Realms of Possibilities**

This project is to provide coordination and liaison with West Australian Newspapers to source stories, contacts and advertising interest to ensure the best possible outcomes for the Gascoyne edition of the Realms of Possibility series.

### **Barriers to Higher Education**

The GDC is hosting the research study which examines the attitudes of people living in rural and remote areas to participation in university studies. The research will provide evidence and a deeper understanding of local factors that influence local levels of university participation. This knowledge is necessary to effectively focus resource allocations to education development projects.

### **Linking the Gascoyne**

The 2004 forum involved regional stakeholders and addressed issues of sustainability for the region and encompassing both human and physical infrastructure and the importance of working in unison with each other. The forum successfully provided opportunity for a broad cross section of delegates to create or build upon existing networks and to be provided opportunity to demonstrate how partnerships can be developed and capacity built.

### **Tailored Input/Output Statistical Analysis**

An analysis tool for evaluating the impact and flow on financial effects of construction projects, increases in exports, increases in consumption, the holding of sporting and cultural events and increases in visitor expenditure.

## **Industry and Enterprise Development**

### **Aboriginal Tourism Product Development**

This project provides funds for assisting community groups who are entering the tourism industry and for facilitating the Gascoyne Aboriginal Tourism Working Party who will support Aboriginal involvement in the Cultural Tourism Industry and enable local Aboriginal people to maintain and share cultural links and skills.

### **Aboriginal Employment and Enterprise Development**

Funding is provided to continue professional guidance, support and assistance for Aboriginal people within the Gascoyne Region to further develop enterprise concepts and establish stronger workable links within the training arena for Aboriginal people seeking meaningful work.

### **Midwest Gascoyne Area Consultative Committee**

Funds are provided through the Midwest Gascoyne Area Consultative Committee to facilitate meetings of Regional industry reference groups to identify projects that have the potential to increase employment and new enterprise development in the Region.

**Burringurrah Tourism Infrastructure**

This project will assist the Burringurrah Aboriginal community to establish a viable tourist enterprise that meets Regional economic planning requirements and locally developed tourism strategies.

**Austrade**

This project provides funds for the employment of a part time export advisory officer through Austrade to provide initial counseling services to clients wanting to get into export, to provide a visual local contact point promoting specific Austrade programs, and facilitate or conduct Exporting workshops and seminars throughout the Region.

**Development Options in the Lower Gascoyne**

This project focused on research into further horticulture development options for the Lower Gascoyne, involving investigations into soil, infrastructure costs and water issues in a number of specified areas.

**Telecommunication Working Group**

This project provides funds to lead and cooperate with the Gascoyne Telecommunications Working Group to improve the awareness and efficiency of communications delivery in the Gascoyne Region.

**Regional Development Scheme**

The primary objective of this scheme is to improve the social and economic development of the region through funding projects that will assist in attracting investment and increasing jobs. An enhanced process for identifying sustainable projects was introduced during the year.

**Community Regional & Economic Development Operatives Group**

The Group meets every three months for sharing of information and assistance with other agencies working in the community economic development area, and for exploration of opportunities for joint promotion of regional schemes and projects.

**Community Mentoring Project**

This project aims to develop the skill base of the Region along with aiding population retention by attracting and maintaining skilled workers and an educated workforce in the Region. The project is funded through the Department of Local Government and Regional Development and with efficiencies, has exceeded its planned 1 year trial by 10 months.

**Energy Management**

The project aims to achieve lower power costs for Gascoyne businesses through lobbying for the reintroduction of an off peak power tariff. The project scope has expanded to incorporate the GDC's efforts to address electricity connections issues in the region through the Regional Electricity Supply Committee.

**Pacific Flora**

This project provides funding for the Project Manager's participation on the Pacific Flora Steering Committee. Pacific Flora was a successful recipient of Regional Development Scheme funding that supported costs associated with promotion of the Gascoyne Region during a six-month living flora exhibition in Japan.

### **Government Infrastructure**

This project benchmarks government infrastructure in the region and minimises duplication of effort by ensuring that strategic planning and growth demands are factored into forward planning.

### **Tourism Support**

This project was inherited from the Gascoyne Tourism Association and is externally funded (Federal). It aims to enhance tourism and related businesses by developing cross sectorial partnerships to optimise business opportunity. It is largely a data collection activity on which strategies to support tourism and related businesses can be based.

## **Infrastructure Identification and Coordination**

### **Ningaloo Ocean and Earth Research Centre**

Development of a Concept Design and Master Plan for a purpose-built, multidisciplinary ‘best practice’ research centre at the Exmouth Marina, sufficient to seek funding partners.

### **Sustainable Research Centre Study**

This project seeks to establish a world class research facility in Carnarvon that specialises in regional development. It will attract research students into the area and support the work of Universities to develop best practice models and substantial regional development data in our region. The Research Centre will be a partnership with the GDC, Shire and Universities around Australia.

### **Lessons Learned From World Heritage**

This project seeks to identify the expectations generated by World Heritage Listing of Shark Bay, whether they were satisfied or not. This data is to be applied to the process currently underway to nominate the Ningaloo area, thereby avoiding problems identified in Shark Bay and maximising benefits for Ningaloo.

### **Gascoyne Health Survey and Register**

The GDC plans to establish a consolidated Heritage Register for the Gascoyne Region based on existing data held by Shires, the Heritage Commission and the Office of Indigenous Affairs. This data will become the basis for further development of tourism, heritage, cultural and historical work throughout the region.

## **Regional Promotion**

### **Internet Home Page**

This project provides funds to continue updating the Commission’s web site at [www.gdc.wa.gov.au](http://www.gdc.wa.gov.au).

### **Destination Magazine**

This project provided funds to populate the Destinations magazine with a minimum of 6 pages of content on the Gascoyne Region.

### **Gascoyne Works**

This project provides funds to produce the monthly GDC newsletter ‘Gascoyne Works’. The newsletter, in the form of a 2 page colour insert in the Northern Guardian, contains the latest news on the projects and activities undertaken by the Commission.

**Year of the Built Environment**

Funding has been provided for the Year of the Built Environment to State Committee to develop a postcard series, through liaison with the Department of Housing and Works which is the agency heading up the activities and events.

**GDC Minor Grants Scheme**

The Minor Grants Scheme is a key tool to profile the GDC Board members and ensures the members are involved in the whole process. The scheme has been developed to address the needs of small groups that are not suited to the Regional Development Grants. The Scheme also allows for the reasonable consideration of many requests for donations and support from the GDC. By developing the Minor Grants Scheme, bequests of money to groups is now equitable and distributed throughout the year.

**WA On Show**

The opening of the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre in August will coincide with a 5-day state wide WA on Show event. The Commission will participate in the event to capitalize on the opportunity to promote the region.

**Capital Projects****Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre**

Funds have been provided for the construction of the Piyarli Yardi Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre that will be located in Carnarvon. In parallel with the development of the physical infrastructure of the Centre, cultural and socio-economic programs are being developed.

**Carnarvon Storm Surge Barrier**

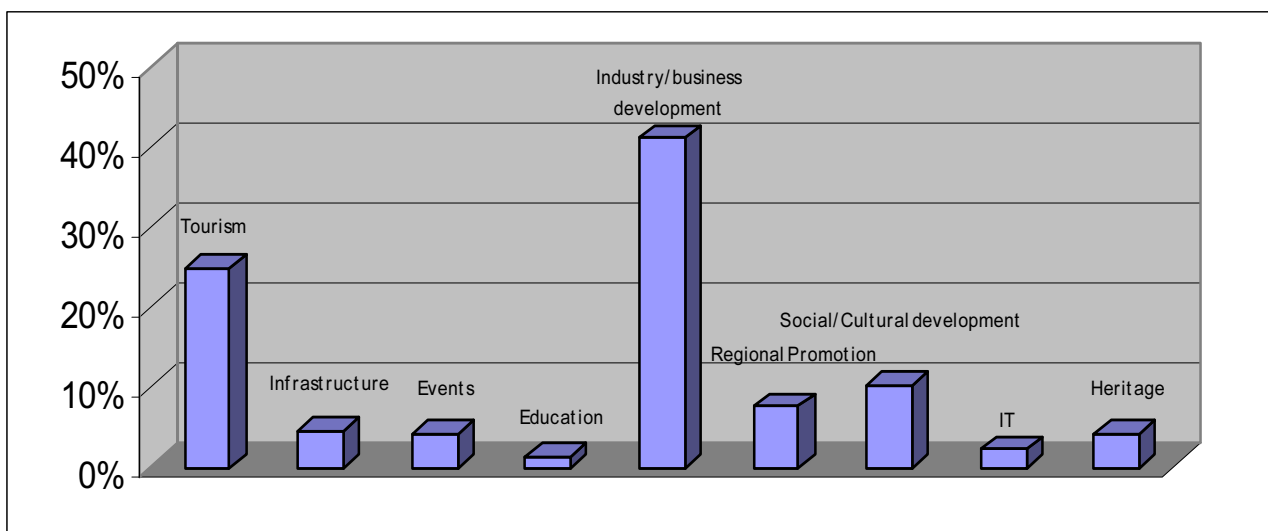
Funds are being drawn upon by the Shire of Carnarvon for the construction of the storm surge barrier which will reduce the impact of flooding and improve the protection of the community.

## REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

RDS funds were provided for the following in the 2003/04 financial year.

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Project</u>
Gascoyne Telecom Working Group	Outback Telecommunications Assistance
Gascoyne Off Road Racing Club Inc	Gascoyne Dash
Shire of Carnarvon	OTC Dish Tourism Concept Plan
Regional Based Alternatives	Inland Water Precinct
Dept Culture and the Arts	ArtsWA - Arts Officer
Marine Farms	Mahimahi Aquaculture Project
Carnarvon Heritage Group	Restoration of Kormoran Lifeboat
Carnarvon Heritage Group	Precinct Positions
Sweeter Banana	Packaging Plant
Shire of Upper Gascoyne	Tourism Position
GDC	Pacific Flora 2004
WA Rangelands Meat Coop	Employment of a part time Project Manager
WA Newspapers	Realms of Possibility
Growers Market	Market Diversification
Carnarvon Yacht Club	Marina Development
Shire of Carnarvon	Public Art Display
Shire of Shark Bay	BBQ, Gazebo
Gascoyne Inland Aquaculture	Aquaculture Training and Research Facility
Gascoyne Water Cooperative	Strategic Plan For LG Irrigation Water
Carnarvon Youth Care	Carnarvon School Chaplaincy
Shire of Exmouth	Kayak Trail
Shire of Exmouth	Whale Centre
Shire of Exmouth	Lighthouse Power and Toilet
Shire of Exmouth	Learmonth Jetty Refurbishment
Shire of Exmouth	Exmouth Arboretum and Revegetation Program
Shire of Exmouth	World War 2 Trail

Regional development funds allocation over three years to 30 June 2004 by industry.



## COMPLIANCE WITH RELEVANT WRITTEN LAW

### Enabling Legislation

The Gascoyne Development Commission is established under the Regional Development Commissions Act 1993. The Commission does not administer legislation.

### Legislation Impacting on Commission Activities

In the performance of its functions the Commission complies with relevant written laws including:

Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985	Workers Compensation and Assistance Act 1981
Public Sector Management Act 1994	Industrial Relations Act 1979
Salaries and Allowances Act 1975	State Supply Commission Act 1991
Public and Bank Holidays Act 1972	Government Employees Housing Act 1964
Equal Opportunity Act 1984	Freedom of Information Act 1992
Government Employees Superannuation Act 1987	Workplace Agreements Act 1993
Disability Services Act 1993	State Government Electoral Act
Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993	Public Disclosure Act 2003
Public Service General Agreement 2002	Public Service Award 1992
Library Board of Western Australia Act 1951	State Records Act
Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act 1984	

The Commission has complied with the requirements of the Financial Administration and Audit Act and every other relevant law, and exercised controls which provide reasonable assurance that the receipt and expenditure of moneys, the acquisition and disposal of public property and incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions.

In the administration of the Gascoyne Development Commission, we have complied with the Public Sector Standards in Human Resource Management, the Western Australian Public Service Sector Code of Ethics and our Code of Conduct.

In accordance with the Disability Services Act (1993), the Commission has a Disability Service Plan and continues to raise staff awareness of special issues relating to people with disabilities, and instructs staff to take action when they can for the benefit of these people relating to Commission activities.

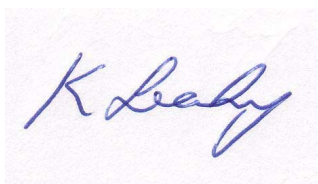
With reference to the State Government's plans for young people, the Commission has projects aimed at economic and social development within the Region, including quality of life and employment opportunities. Achievement of these aims will benefit all people in the Region, including young people.



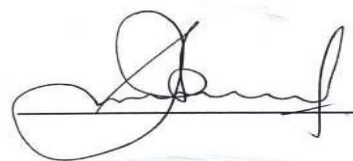
In compliance with Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act 1907, the Commission reports the amounts spent for the following classes of expenditure in 2003/04.

(a)	Advertising agencies	\$7,113
(b)	Market research organisations	\$0
(c)	Polling organisations	\$0
(d)	Direct mail organisations	\$0
(e)	Media advertising organisations	\$0

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Leahy', on a light-colored background.

Chairman  
30 July 2004

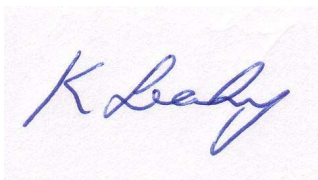
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. E. Jones', on a light-colored background.

S. E. Jones  
Chief Executive Officer

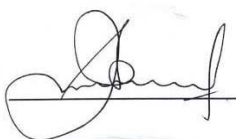
## PERFORMANCE REVIEW

### **CERTIFICATION OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

We hereby certify that the performance indicators are based on proper records, are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess the Gascoyne Development Commission performance, and fairly represent the performance of the Gascoyne Development Commission for the financial year ended 30 June 2004.



Kevin Leahy  
CHAIRMAN



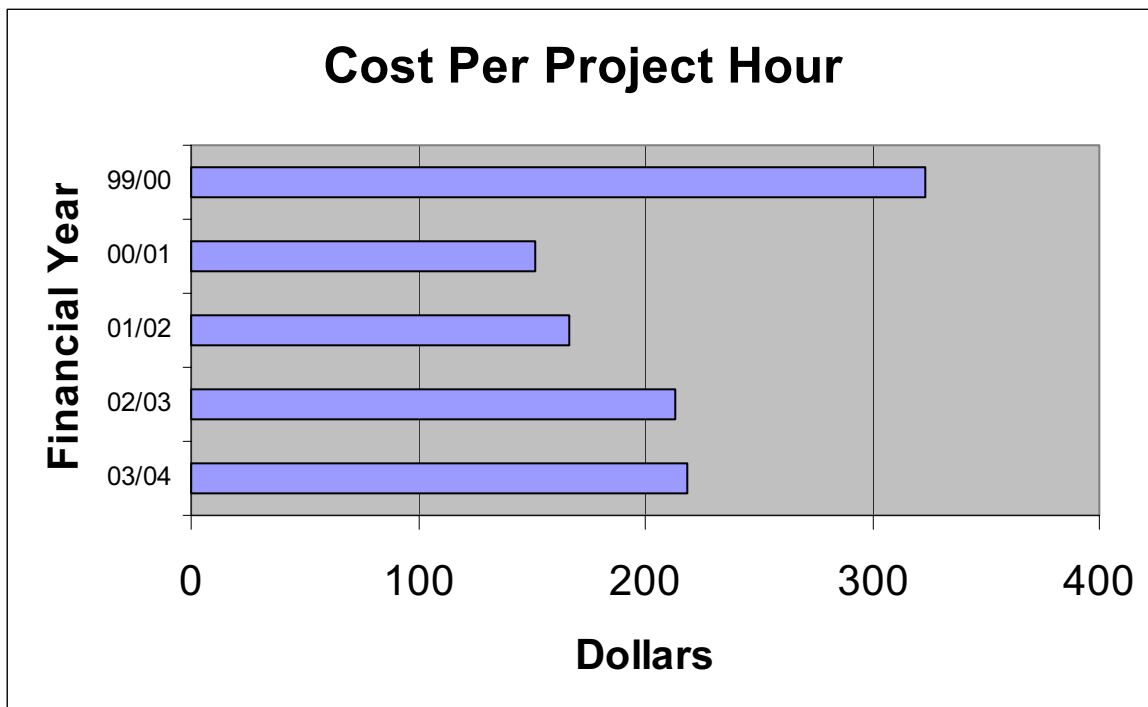
S. E. Jones  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEMBER OF  
ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY

30 July 2004

## Efficiency Indicators

The Corporate output is Regional Development.

The following chart records the total cost of services per project hour as an audited key efficiency indicator. There was a slight reduction in project hours from March 2002 with the move from work place agreements to the Public Service General Award.



The Commission's budget is directed to numerous output focused projects supporting the economic and social development of the Gascoyne Region. External funding sources and networking partners are continually sought to enhance project scope and effectiveness. The attraction of additional funding (or the withdrawal of anticipated funding) can result in wide variations between expectations and actual results.

## Effectiveness Indicators

The activities of the Commission are focused on the attainment of its outcome: An environment conducive to the balanced economic and social development of the Gascoyne Region.

By way of background, the Commission operates on a project basis to achieve Economic and Social Development of the Gascoyne Region. Projects vary widely to encompass developing policies, strategic plans and facilitating their implementation, encouraging business investment, identifying social and cultural infrastructure to improve business growth and quality of life, and regional promotion. Funding can vary dramatically within a financial year depending on shifting priorities and what strategic partnerships and shared project funding initiatives can be established during the year.

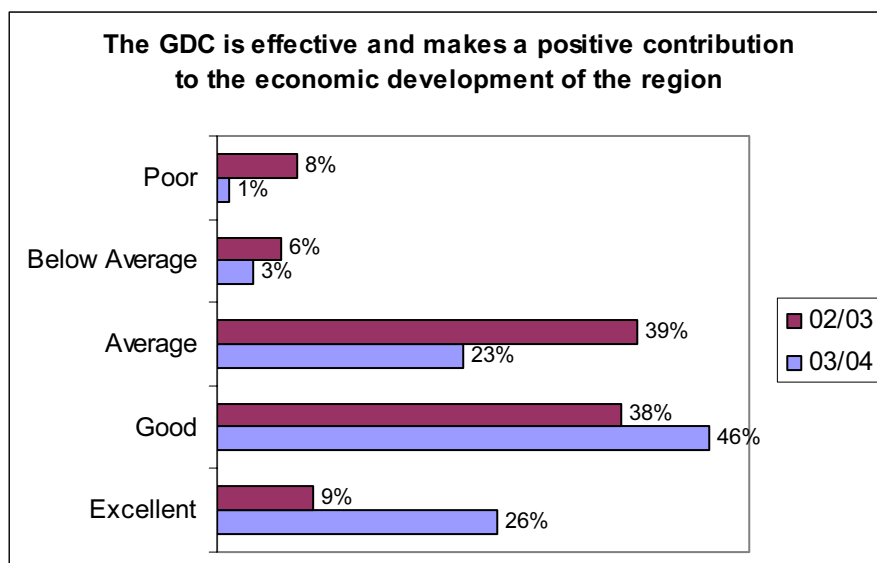
## Customer Survey

A Customer Survey of the Commission's database of contacts was undertaken in April 2004 to solicit responses relating to the achievement of the Commission's outcome. A 50% response rate was achieved from 200 questionnaires.

Of the 200 questionnaires sent, 88 were considered clients who deal with the Commission fairly frequently or more often, and 79 of those clients returned questionnaires, indicating a strike rate of 90%. A summary of results follows.

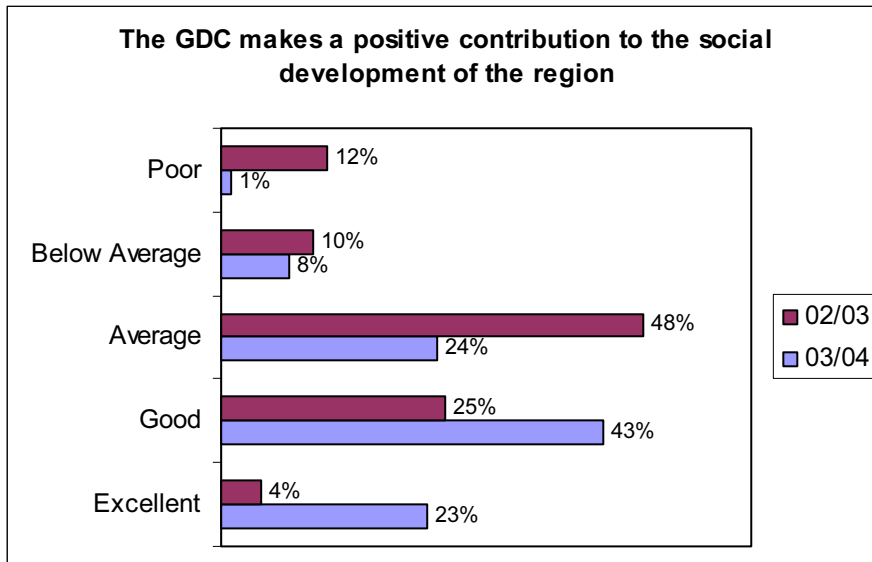
**Figure 1**

Respondents were asked if the Commission is effective and makes a positive contribution to the economic development of the Gascoyne Region.



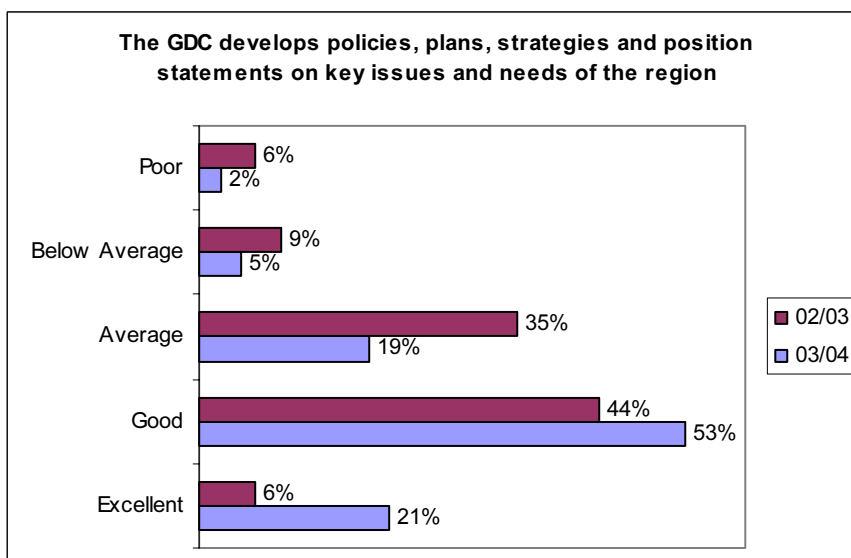
**Figure 2**

The survey asked if the Commission is effective and makes a positive contribution to the social development of the Gascoyne Region.



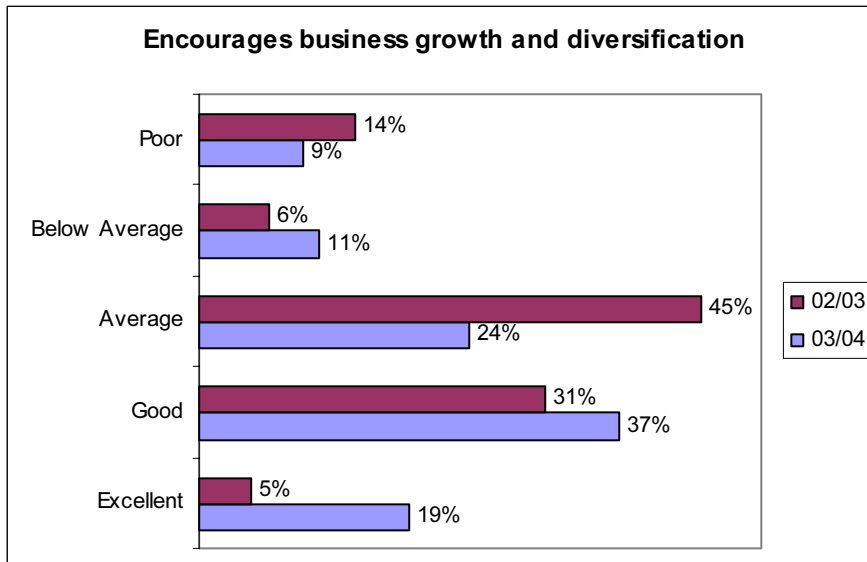
**Figure 3**

The survey asked how well the Commission performed in developing policies, plans, strategies and position statements on key issues and needs of the Region.



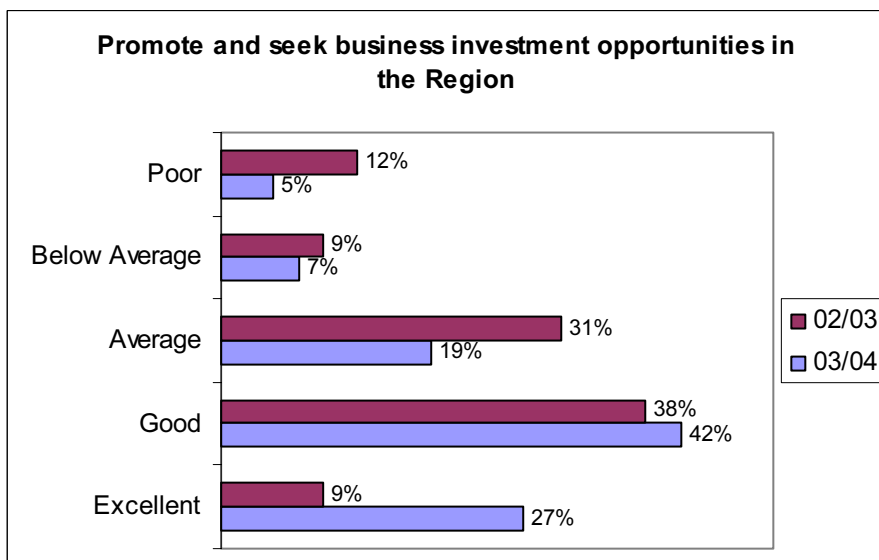
**Figure 4**

The survey asked how well the Commission performed in encouraging local business to grow and diversify.



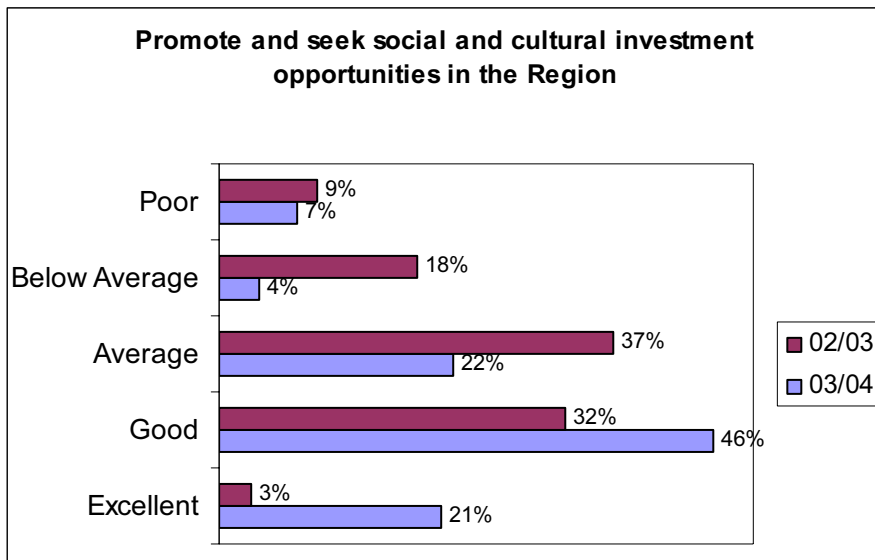
**Figure 5**

The survey asked how well the Commission performed in promoting and seeking business investment opportunities in the Region.



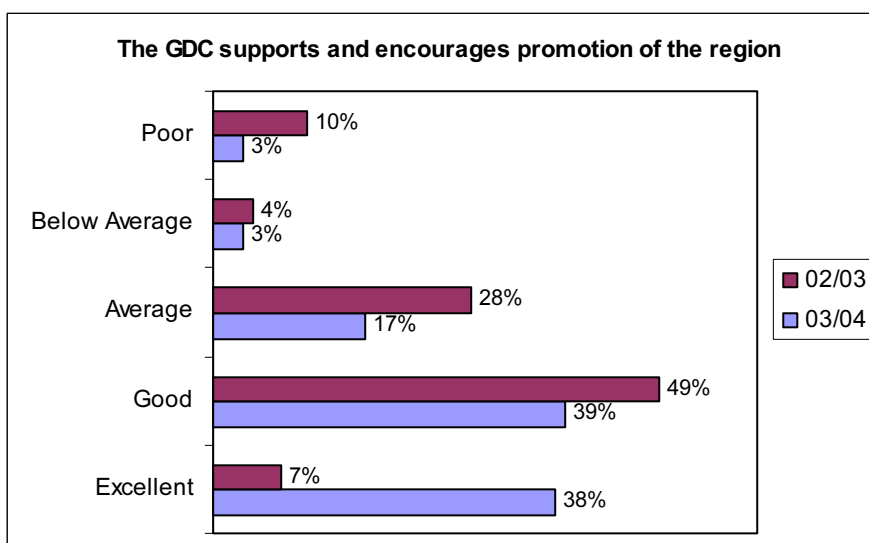
**Figure 6**

The survey asked how well the Commission performed in promoting and seeking social and cultural opportunities in the Region.



**Figure 7**

The survey asked how well the Commission performed in supporting and encouraging promotion of the Region.







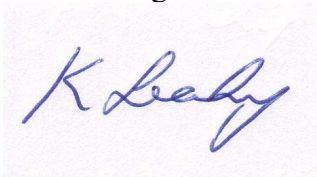


## FINANCIAL & STATUTORY REPORTS

### CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

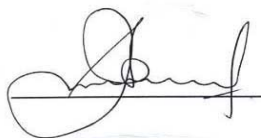
At the date of signing we are not aware of any circumstances which would render the particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



CHAIRMAN



Chris Jones  
PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING OFFICER



S. E. Jones  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEMBER OF  
ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY

30 July 2004

**GASCOYNE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004**

	NOTE	2004 \$	2003 \$
<b>COST OF SERVICES</b>			
<b>Expenses from ordinary activities</b>			
Employee expenses	3	784,223	701,377
Supplies and Services	4	606,680	507,672
Depreciation	5	32,669	36,708
Administration expenses	6	368,428	332,393
Accommodation expenses	7	89,348	95,752
Grants and Subsidies	8	646,416	181,433
Audit fees	22	0	21,500
Cost of disposals of non current assets	13	2,705	1,815
Capital User Charge	9	0	144,250
Total cost of services		<u>2,530,469</u>	<u>2,022,900</u>
<b>Revenues from ordinary activities</b>			
<i>Revenue from operating activities</i>			
Grants From Commonwealth Government		42,992	67,210
Other Grants and Subsidies		15,609	6,364
User Charges and Fees	10	49,375	36,691
Bad Debt Recoup		2,919	1,668
<i>Revenue from non-operating activities</i>			
Proceeds from Disposal of Non Current Assets	13	951	886
Other Revenue from ordinary activities	12	<u>36,010</u>	<u>0</u>
Total revenues from ordinary activities		147,856	112,819
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>		<u>2,382,613</u>	<u>1,910,081</u>
<b>REVENUES FROM STATE GOVERNMENT</b>			
Output appropriation	11	3,558,000	1,296,182
Grants & Subsidies		747,700	675,502
Resources received free of charge	22	<u>0</u>	<u>21,500</u>
Total revenues from State Government		4,305,700	1,993,184
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>		<u>1,923,087</u>	<u>83,103</u>
<b>Total changes in equity other than those resulting from transactions with the WA State Government as owners</b>			
		<u>1,923,087</u>	<u>83,103</u>

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

**GASCOYNE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS AT 30 JUNE 2004**

	NOTE	2004 \$	2003 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash Assets	21	426,006	813,150
Restricted Cash	21	3,088,816	1,047,475
Receivables	14	314,697	18,770
Amounts Receivable For Outputs	15	109,000	78,000
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<u>3,938,519</u>	<u>1,957,395</u>
 <b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Plant and Equipment	16	<u>61,965</u>	<u>54,745</u>
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<u>61,965</u>	<u>54,745</u>
 <b>Total Assets</b>		<u>4,000,484</u>	<u>2,012,140</u>
 <b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Payables	17	7,316	12,454
Provisions	18	107,605	64,545
Other Liabilities	19	<u>25,271</u>	<u>16,119</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<u>140,192</u>	<u>93,118</u>
 <b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Provisions	18	<u>6,410</u>	<u>28,227</u>
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<u>6,410</u>	<u>28,227</u>
 <b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u>146,602</u>	<u>121,345</u>
 <b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>3,853,882</u>	<u>1,890,795</u>
 <b>Equity</b>			
Capital Contributions	20	90,000	50,000
Accumulated Surplus	20	<u>3,763,882</u>	<u>1,840,795</u>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<u>3,853,882</u>	<u>1,890,795</u>

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

**GASCOYNE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2004 \$ Inflows (Outflows)</b>	<b>2003 \$ Inflows (Outflows)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT</b>			
Output appropriations	11	3,527,000	1,256,182
Capital contributions		40,000	25,000
Other Government Grants		510,800	695,502
<b>Net cash provided by State Government</b>		<b>4,077,800</b>	<b>1,976,684</b>
<b>Used as follows</b>			
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Payments</b>			
Employee costs		(986,611)	(940,144)
Supplies and services		(824,327)	(908,741)
Payments for asset maintenance		(11,441)	(7,040)
Payments on grants and subsidies		(645,916)	(180,433)
GST payments on purchases		(151,353)	(90,480)
<b>Receipts</b>			
Commonwealth grants and contributions		46,512	80,190
Proceeds from grants and subsidies		15,609	6,364
Proceeds from staff for rent		15,284	20,665
Proceeds from other		34,091	16,026
GST receipts from taxation authority		125,982	74,210
GST receipts on sales		180	26
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	21(b)	<b>(2,381,990)</b>	<b>(1,929,358)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Purchase of non-current physical assets		(42,594)	(9,955)
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		951	887
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<b>(41,643)</b>	<b>(9,068)</b>
<b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH HELD</b>		<b>1,654,167</b>	<b>38,258</b>
Cash assets at the beginning of the financial year		1,860,355	1,822,096
<b>CASH ASSETS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	21(a)	<b>3,514,522</b>	<b>1,860,355</b>

The Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**GASCOYNE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2004**

**1. Significant accounting policies**

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

**General Statement**

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

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

**Basis of Accounting**

The statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting using the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities which, as noted, are measured at fair value.

**Output Appropriations**

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

**GASCOYNE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2004**

**Contributed Equity**

Under UIG 38 “Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities” transfers in the nature of equity contributions must be designated by the Government (owners) as contributions by owners (at the time of, or prior to transfer) before such transfers can be recognised as equity contributions in the financial statements. Capital contributions (appropriations) have been designated as contributions by owners and have been credited directly to Contributed Equity in the statement of Financial Position.

**Grants and Other Contributions Revenue**

Grants, donations, gifts and other non-reciprocal contributions are recognised as revenue when the Authority obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions. Control is normally obtained upon their receipt.

Contributions are recognised at their fair value. Contributions of services are only recognised when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would be purchased if not donated.

**Revenue Recognition**

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

**Acquisitions of assets**

The cost method of accounting is used for all acquisitions of assets. Cost is measured as the fair value of the assets given up or liabilities undertaken at the date of acquisition plus incidental costs directly attributable to the acquisition.

Assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised at their fair value at the date of acquisition.

Assets costing less than \$1,000 are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

**GASCOYNE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2004**

**Depreciation of non-current assets**

All non-current assets having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their estimated useful lives in a manner which reflects the consumption of their future economic benefits. Depreciation is calculated on the reducing balance using rates which are reviewed annually.

Expected useful lives for each class of depreciable asset are:

Electronic Equipment	4 years
Furniture and Fittings	8 years

**Leases**

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

**Cash**

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

**Receivables**

Receivables are recognised at the amounts receivable as they are due for settlement no more than 30 days from the date of recognition.

Collectability of receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts which are known to be uncollectible are written off. A provision for doubtful debts is raised where some doubts as to collection exists and in any event where the debt is more than 60 days overdue.

**Payables**

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



**GASCOYNE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2004**

**Employee benefits**

**Annual leave**

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

**Long service leave**

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

This method of measurement of the liability is consistent with the requirements of Accounting Standard AASB 1028 "Employee Benefits".

**Superannuation**

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

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

**GASCOYNE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2004**

**Employee benefit on-costs**

Employee benefit on-costs, including payroll tax, are recognised and included in employee benefit liabilities and costs when the employee benefits to which they relate are recognised as liabilities and expenses.

**Accrued Salaries**

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

**Resources Received Free of Charge or For Nominal Value**

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

**Comparative Figures**

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

**Rounding**

Amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars, or in certain cases, to the nearest dollar.

**2 Operation as an Authority**

The Commission has operated as an Authority under the Regional Development Commission's Act 1993 since 7 April 1994, and the accounts from that date are accruals based in accordance with statutory reporting requirements.

**GASCOYNE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004**

		<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Employee expenses</b>		
	Wages and salaries	666,306	642,281
	Superannuation	72,776	47,947
	Long service leave	(9,108)	(19,538)
	Annual leave	30,624	12,962
	Other related expenses	23,625	17,725
		<u>784,223</u>	<u>701,377</u>
<b>4</b>	<b>Supplies and services</b>		
	Consultants and contractors	468,780	387,625
	Materials	116,163	105,273
	Repairs and maintenance	9,662	2,896
	Travel	12,075	11,878
		<u>606,680</u>	<u>507,672</u>
<b>5</b>	<b>Depreciation expense</b>		
	Electronic Equipment	28,163	32,442
	Furniture and Fittings	4,506	4,266
		<u>32,669</u>	<u>36,708</u>
<b>6</b>	<b>Administration expenses</b>		
	Communication	37,269	32,778
	Consumables	86,712	70,325
	Other staff costs	244,447	229,292
		<u>368,428</u>	<u>332,395</u>
<b>7</b>	<b>Accommodation expenses</b>		
	Lease rentals	73,286	77,456
	Repairs and maintenance	2,433	3,582
	Cleaning	13,629	14,714
		<u>89,348</u>	<u>95,752</u>
<b>8</b>	<b>Grants and subsidies</b>		
	Recurrent	646,416	181,433
<b>9</b>	<b>Capital User Charge</b>		
	Capital User Charge	0	144,250
	<p>A capital user charge rate of 8% has been set by Government and represents the opportunity cost of capital invested in the net assets of the Commission used in the provision of outputs. Quarterly payments are made to the Department of Treasury and Finance.</p> <p>Due to the charge not applying to restricted funds, a credit has applied by Treasury to the 2003/04 year.</p>		
<b>10</b>	<b>User Charges and Fees</b>		
	Comprises mostly of charges to staff for rental accommodation and revenue from rent of office space.	49,375	36,691

**GASCOYNE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004**

**2004**  
**\$**

**2003**  
**\$**

<b>11</b>	<b>Revenues from Government</b>		
	Appropriations - Output	3,527,000	1,256,182
	Appropriations - Output Holding Account	<u>31,000</u>	<u>40,000</u>
		3,558,000	1,296,182
	Appropriations - Capital	40,000	25,000

Output appropriations are accrual amounts reflecting the full price paid for outputs purchased by Government. The Holding Account comprises depreciation expense and other agreed amounts.

<b>12</b>	<b>Other Revenue</b>		
	Capital User Charge Credit	36,010	0
	Represents the credit applied by Treasury for Capital User Charge		
<b>13</b>	<b>Loss on Disposal of Non Current Assets</b>		
	Cost of disposal of non current assets	(2,705)	(1,815)
	Proceeds on disposal of non current assets	<u>951</u>	<u>886</u>
	Net loss on asset sales and write offs	(1,754)	(929)
<b>14</b>	<b>Receivables</b>		
	Trade debtors	314,697	18,770
<b>15</b>	<b>Amounts receivable for outputs</b>		
	Current	109,000	78,000
<b>16</b>	<b>Plant and Equipment</b>		
	Furniture and Fittings at cost	51,189	41,039
	Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>28,751</u>	<u>24,245</u>
		22,438	16,794
	Electronic Equipment at cost	174,895	173,175
	Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>135,368</u>	<u>135,224</u>
		39,527	37,951
	Total Plant and Equipment	<u>61,965</u>	<u>54,745</u>

Reconciliations

Furniture and Fittings at start of year	16,794	19,070
Additions	10,150	1,990
Disposals		
Depreciation	(4,506)	(4,266)
Write Offs		
Carrying amount at end of the year	<u>22,438</u>	<u>16,794</u>
Electronic Equipment at start of year	37,951	64,243
Additions	32,444	7,965
Revaluation		
Disposals	(2,172)	(1,728)
Depreciation	(28,163)	(32,442)
Write Offs	<u>(533)</u>	<u>(87)</u>
Carrying amount at end of the year	39,527	37,951

**GASCOYNE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004**

**2004  
\$**

**2003  
\$**

<b>17</b>	<b>Payables</b>		
	Current		
	Trade payables	<u>7,316</u>	<u>12,454</u>
	Creditors are recognised when the Commission becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services. Creditors are generally settled within 30 days.	<u>7,316</u>	<u>12,454</u>
<b>18</b>	<b>Provisions - current</b>		
	Annual Leave	80,508	49,884
	Long Service Leave	<u>27,097</u>	<u>14,661</u>
		107,605	64,545
	<b>Provisions - non current</b>		
	Long Service Leave	<u>6,410</u>	<u>28,227</u>
		6,410	28,227
	<b>Total Provisions</b>	<u>114,015</u>	<u>92,772</u>
<b>19</b>	<b>Accrued Salaries</b>		
	Accrued for 9 working days to 30 June 2004 and 7 days in the prior year.	25,271	16,119
<b>20</b>	<b>Equity</b>		
	Opening balance of capital contributions	50,000	25,000
	Capital contributions	<u>40,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
	Closing balance	90,000	50,000
	Opening Balance Accumulated Surplus/(deficiency)	1,840,795	1,757,692
	Change in net assets	<u>1,923,087</u>	<u>83,103</u>
	Closing balance	3,763,882	1,840,795

**GASCOYNE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004**

**2004  
\$**

**2003  
\$**

**21 Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows**

**(a) Reconciliation of Cash**

For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash represents cash in the Commission's account at the Commonwealth Bank. The Commission maintains no other bank accounts. Cash at the end of the reporting period shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related item in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:

Reconciliation of cash at the beginning of the financial year

Unrestricted cash	425,706	812,880
Petty cash	300	270
Total unrestricted cash assets	426,006	813,150

All cash amounts held are non-interest bearing.

Restricted cash at bank held exclusively for the following projects.

Piyarli Yardi Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre	1,579,924	184,165
Carnarvon Storm Surge Barrier	1,000,359	449,359
Gascoyne Murchison Strategy Projects	264,990	-
Regional Development Scheme Grant Funds	243,543	413,951
	3,088,816	1,047,475

Total cash assets	3,514,822	1,860,625
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**(b) Reconciliation of net cash used in operating activities to**

Net Cost of Services

Net Cost of Services (Statement of Financial Performance)	(2,382,613)	(1,910,081)
Depreciation	32,669	36,708
Services received free of charge	0	21,500
Asset write offs	(2,537)	(929)
Increase (Decrease) in other liabilities	9,152	923
Increase (Decrease) in leave provision	20,929	(6,576)
Increase (Decrease) in payables	(5,138)	(70,863)
(Increase) Decrease in receivables	(29,081)	17,730
Net GST receipts (payments)	(25,371)	(16,270)
Increase (Decrease) in GST in receivables	0	(1,500)
Net cash used in operating activities (Statement of Cash Flows)	(2,381,990)	(1,929,358)

**GASCOYNE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004**

<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>

**22 Resources received free of charge**

The Statement of Financial Performance includes:

Audit Fees via the Office of the Auditor General	0	21,500
	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 21,500

These benefits are provided by State Departments to this Authority from funds appropriated to them for that purpose. Commencing with the 2003-04 audit, the Office of the Auditor General will be charging a fee for auditing the accounts, financial statements and performance indicators. The fee for the 2003-04 audit (\$25,850) will be due and payable in the 2004-05 financial year.

**23 Expenditure Commitments**

**Operating Lease Commitments**

The Commission has four vehicles under operating leases. Future lease payments not shown elsewhere in the accounts are:

Amounts due within 12 months	17,676	20,564
Amounts due > 1 < 5 years	25,250	6,086

**24 Subsequent Events**

There were no significant events that occurred after year end.

**GASCOYNE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004**

**2004                      2003**  
**\$                              \$**

**25      Remuneration of Members of the Accountable Authority and Senior Officers**

Remuneration of Members of the Accountable Authority

The total fees, salaries, superannuation and other benefits received or due and receivable, by board members for the financial year.

25,751                      23,517

The number of board members whose total salaries and other benefits received or due for the financial year, who fall within the following bands is:

\$0 - 10 000    9                              10

The superannuation included represents the expense incurred by the Authority in respect of a member of the Accountable Authority.

No members are members of the pension scheme.

Remuneration of Senior Officers

The total fees, salaries, superannuation and other benefits received or due and receivable, by senior officers for the financial year.

134,363                      110,865

The number of Senior Officers whose total salaries and other benefits received or due for the financial year, who fall within the following bands is:

\$1 - 10,000    -                              1  
\$101,001-110,000                                      -                              1  
\$130,001-140,000                                      1                              -

The superannuation included represents the expense incurred by the Authority in respect of senior officers other than those reported as members of the Accountable Authority.

No members are members of the pension scheme.

**26      Write Offs**

Public property written off during the financial year

1,316                      87



**GASCOYNE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004**

**27 Financial Instruments**

**(a) Interest Rate Risk Exposure**

The entity's exposure to interest rate risk is nil as the funds invested with Treasury are not subject to interest rates.

**(b) Credit Rate Exposure**

The credit risk on financial assets of the economic entity, which have been recognised on the Statement of Financial Position, is generally a carrying amount, net of any provision for doubtful debts.

**(c) Net Fair Value**

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

**28 The Impact of Adopting International Accounting Standards**

The Gascoyne Development Commission is adopting international accounting standards in compliance with AASB 1 First-time Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

AASB 1 requires an opening balance sheet as at 1 July 2004 and the restatement of the financial statements for the reporting period to 30 June 2005 of the IFRS basis.

These financial statements will be presented as comparatives in the first annual financial report prepared on an IFRS basis for the period ending 30 June 2006.

AASB 1047 Disclosing the Impacts of Adopting Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards requires reports for periods ending on or after 30 June 2004 to disclose:

**1. How the transition to Australian equivalents to IFRS is being managed:**

Staff training will be provided by the Department of Treasury and Finance

**2. Key differences in accounting policies that are expected to arise from adopting Australian equivalents to IFRS.**

The Gascoyne Development Commission is aware of the IFRS and is assessing the impact on the Commission. In the near future training will be provided by the Department of Treasury and Finance.

Currently there are no key differences in the accounting policies that are expected to arise from adopting Australian equivalents to IFRS.

**GASCOYNE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004**

**29 Explanatory Statement**

**29(a) Significant variations between estimates and actual results for the financial year**

Details and reasons for significant variations between actual results with the corresponding items of the Estimates are detailed below. Significant variations are considered to be those greater than 10% and \$50,000.

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2004 \$000</b>	<b>Est's \$000</b>	<b>Variation \$000</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>COST OF SERVICES</b>					
<b>Expenses from ordinary activities</b>					
Employee expenses	1	784	619	165	27%
Supplies and Services	2	607	4838	(4,231)	(87%)
Depreciation		33	30	3	9%
Administration expenses	4	368	13	355	2734%
Accommodation expenses		89	126	(37)	(29%)
Grants and Subsidies	2	646	790	(144)	(18%)
Cost of disposals of non current assets		3	2	1	35%
Capital User Charge		0	32	(32)	(100%)
<b>Total cost of services</b>		<b>2,530</b>	<b>6,450</b>	<b>(3,920)</b>	<b>(61%)</b>
<b>Revenues from ordinary activities</b>					
Grants and Subsidies	3	59	942	(883)	(94%)
User Charges and Fees		49	9	40	449%
Bad Debts Recouped		3	46	(43)	(94%)
Proceeds from Disposal of Non Current Assets		1	0	1	100%
Other Revenue		36	0	36	100%
<b>Total revenues from ordinary activities</b>		<b>148</b>	<b>997</b>	<b>(849)</b>	<b>(85%)</b>
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>		<b>2,382</b>	<b>5,453</b>	<b>(3,070)</b>	<b>(56%)</b>

**Note**

- 1 Reflects successful recruitment subsequent to the appointment of the CEO.
- 2 The Commission's budget is directed to numerous projects supporting the economic and social development of the Gascoyne region. External funding sources and networking partners are continually sought to enhance project scope and effectiveness. The attraction of additional funding (or the withdrawal of anticipated funding) can result in wide variations in revenue and expenditure over financial years. Also, delays in Infrastructure Project expenditure can occur over which the Commission has no direct control.
- 3 The actual figure previously included grants revenue from the State Government.
- 4 Administration expenses include communication expenses, consumables and indirect staffing costs. These have previously been included under supplies and services.

**GASCOYNE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004**

29 **Explanatory Statement (continued)**

29(b) **Significant variations between actual revenues and expenditures for the financial year and revenues and expenditures for the immediately preceding financial year**

Details and reasons for significant variations between actual results with the corresponding items of the preceding year are detailed below. Significant variations are considered to be those greater than 10% and \$50,000.

	Note	2004 \$000	2003 \$000	Variation \$000	Percent %
<b>COST OF SERVICES</b>					
<b>Expenses from ordinary activities</b>					
Employee expenses		784	701	83	12%
Supplies and Services	1	607	508	99	20%
Depreciation		33	37	(4)	(11%)
Administration expenses		368	332	36	11%
Accommodation expenses		89	96	(7)	(8%)
Grants and Subsidies	1, 2	646	181	465	256%
Audit fees		0	22	(22)	(100%)
Cost of disposals of non current assets		3	1	2	191%
Capital User Charge	3	0	144	(144)	(100%)
<b>Total cost of services</b>		<u>2,530</u>	<u>2,022</u>	<u>508</u>	<u>25%</u>
<b>Revenues from ordinary activities</b>					
Proceeds from Disposal of Non Current Assets		1	1	(0)	0%
Grants From Commonwealth Government		43	67	(24)	(36%)
Other Grants and Subsidies		15	6	9	145%
User Charges and Fees		49	37	12	32%
Bad Debt Recoup		3	2	1	100%
Other Revenue from ordinary activities		<u>36</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>100%</u>
<b>Total revenues from ordinary activities</b>		<u>147</u>	<u>112</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>31%</u>
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>		<u><u>2,383</u></u>	<u><u>1,910</u></u>	<u><u>473</u></u>	<u><u>25%</u></u>

**NOTE**

- The Commission's budget is directed to numerous projects supporting the economic and social development of the Gascoyne region. External funding sources and networking partners are continually sought to enhance project scope and effectiveness. The attraction of additional funding (or the withdrawal of anticipated funding) can result in wide variations in revenue and expenditure over financial years. Also, delays in Infrastructure Project expenditure can occur over which the Commission has no direct control.
- The variation relates to grant payments made from the Regional Development Scheme Grant Program.
- The capital user charge was previously charged upon restricted cash for which the Commission has been given credit from the Department of Treasury and Finance.



AUDITOR GENERAL

**To the Parliament of Western Australia**

**GASCOYNE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2003**

**Matters Relating to the Electronic Presentation of the Audited Financial Statements**



## **PUBLICATIONS PRODUCED DURING 2003/2004**

During the 2003/04 financial year the Commission produced and released individually, or jointly in partnership, the following major publications and documents:

Annual Report for the Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2003

Gascoyne Works, a regular publication of the Commission's activities.

Gascoyne Murchison Outback Pathways Brochure (in partnership with the Midwest Development Commission)

## **OFFICE LOCATION**

### **Street Address:**

Gascoyne Development Commission  
15 Stuart Street  
CARNARVON WA 6701

### **Postal Address:**

Gascoyne Development Commission  
PO Box 781  
CARNARVON WA 6701

**Telephone:** (08) 9941 1803      Free Call: 1800 061 173

**Facsimile:** (08) 9941 2576

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

**Website:** <http://www.gdc.wa.gov.au>