

<p>CEO120 PARTNERSHIP UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA & THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL CITIES ALLIANCE</p>

AGENDA REFERENCE:	11/058393
AUTHOR:	T Brun, Chief Executive Officer
EXECUTIVE:	T Brun, Chief Executive Officer
DATE OF REPORT:	5 April 2011
FILE REFERENCE:	GR/0062
APPLICANT / PROPONENT:	Western Australian Regional Cities Alliance University of Western Australia
ATTACHMENTS:	Yes Confidential

SUMMARY:

The report proposes the endorsement of the Western Australian Regional Cities Alliance (WARCA) and the University of Western Australia (UWA) research partnership by the Council.

PROPONENT:

The proponent is Western Australian Regional Cities Alliance which is an unconstituted body made up of the local governments of the City of Albany, City of Bunbury, City of Geraldton-Greenough and the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder. The role of Chairman and secretariat is determined on a rotational basis between the members. The current Chairman and secretariat is the City of Geraldton-Greenough.

The other proponent of the partnership is the University of Western Australia.

BACKGROUND:

Council considered the formation of WARCA at its meeting of the 19th January 2010. At the meeting it resolved the following:-

COUNCIL DECISION

MOVED CR MCILWAINE, SECONDED CR ASHPLANT

Part A

That Council by Simple Majority pursuant to s.5.56 of the Local Government Act 1995 RESOLVES to:

- 1. ADOPT the WA Regional Cities Alliance Framework; and*
- 2. AGREES to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding, as attached in Appendix CC136, with the Cities of Albany, Bunbury & Kalgoorlie-Boulder.*

CARRIED 8/0

COUNCIL DECISION

MOVED CR ASHPLANT, SECONDED CR BRICK

Part B

That Council jointly with the Councils of the Cities of Albany, Bunbury and Kalgoorlie-Boulder by Absolute Majority pursuant to s.5.56 of the Local Government Act 1995 RESOLVES to:

- 1. FORM the Western Australian Regional Cities Alliance Committee.*
- 2. SET the Membership of the Committee as being:-*
 - Mayor, Cr Ian Carpenter*

- *Cr McIlwaine as Proxy to the Mayor;*
 - *Mayor of the City of Albany;*
 - *Mayor of the City of Bunbury; and*
 - *Mayor of the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.*
3. *DETERMINES the terms of Reference of the Committee as being:*
- 3.1 *The Alliance parties work collaboratively to achieve the future sustainable development of the State of Western Australia;*
- 3.2 *The Alliance is accepted as a legitimate and respected grouping within the arrangements resulting from the current Local Government Structural Reform process;*
- 3.3 *All significant matters impacting upon regional cities are referred to the Western Australian State Cabinet for review;*
- 3.4 *That appropriate allocations will be directed to regional cities in Roads to Recovery (R2R) funding in recognition of their higher infrastructure and service provision requirements;*
- 3.5 *That the emergence of the Alliance Cities occurs in a balanced fashion, recognising the infrastructure needs and associated funding requirements of sub-regional centres within their hinterlands;*
- 3.6 *The Alliance Cities evolve into fully-fledged alternatives to the Perth Metropolitan Area as locations for the growing population of the State;*
- 3.7 *The State's future population growth and its associated demands for social, economic and environmental amenity are distributed in a sustainable fashion. The Alliance believes that a realistic target is for 50% of the projected population growth to occur in regional areas, with 25% to be located in regional cities;*
- 3.8 *The Alliance is positioned and resourced to represent the interests of its members and to enable synergies at operational and strategic levels;*
- 3.9 *There is the capability for two further regional cities from the Pilbara and/or the Kimberley regions respectively to join the Alliance;*
- 3.10 *There are regular opportunities for engagement, representation and dialogue with and between:*
- *The Premier, the Minister for Regional Development, other Ministers as relevant and Mayors of the Alliance member Cities;*
 - *Senior Government Officers and Ministerial Advisors, and Chief Executive Officers of the Alliance member Cities;*
4. *DETERMINES the Committee has no delegated authority; and*
5. *SETS the Tenure of the Committee to the next election or as amended by Council.*

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 8/0

WARCA has subsequently as a group been reviewing options and strategies to best progress its stated aims, specifically those focused around achieved evidenced based policy positions from which to engage and influence State and Commonwealth Government positions.

A key initiative has developed around formalising a partnership with the University of Western Australia. This partnership would see substantial benefits through leveraged participation in the program and the result of beneficial data, research and analysis and policy statements.

Based on the discussions the following partnership's specific objectives were developed:-

- Analysis and modeling of demographic, social and economic indicators;
- The definition of current and future service and infrastructure needs and standard;

- Collaboration on the analysis of strategic planning needs, and in the development of responses;
- Engagement in research and strategy related to the distribution of population and economic activity within the broader context of Western Australia;
- Development education and research capacity in areas relevant to the needs of regional cities.

The partnership has a number of apparent benefits to the Alliance including:

- A research programme dedicated to the specific strategic needs of Western Australia's regional cities;
- The development of further partnerships with individual research groups and individuals within the University according to their needs;
- The opportunity to leverage additional research funds through sources such as the Australian Research Council;
- The opportunity to have PhD and advanced students engage in research on Western Australia's regional cities.

The benefits of the partnership to the University include:

- Enhanced research capacity in regional development;
- Increased publications and research income in regional development;
- The development of an innovative research programme not being conducted by other Australian universities;
- Enhanced teaching capacity in regional development;
- Increased engagement with regional Western Australia.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

Not applicable.

COUNCILLOR/OFFICER CONSULTATION:

The Mayor, as the nominated elected representative on WARCA along with the Chief Executive Officer have been in ongoing discussions with WARCA members and UWA.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS:

The proposal would see each individual local government contribute an amount of their \$50,000 annual projects allocation for WARCA towards the agreement.

The arrangement represents a 5 year research grant with UWA which is constituted under WA legislation.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL AND BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

The members of WARCA have agreed to consider in their respective budgets \$50,000 per annum for initiatives and projects relating to the objectives desired.

The City has allocated these funds in the 20010/11 budget and also provided similar funds in the Forward Estimates.

The specific proposal fits within the total project allocations and can be:-

	UWA Share	Albany Share	Bunbury Share	Geraldton Greenough Share	Kalgoorlie-Boulder Share	TOTAL
Year 1	168,982	27,828	27,828	27,828	27,828	280,294
Year 2	205,686	46,238	46,238	46,238	46,238	390,638
Year 3	219,374	48,820	48,820	48,820	48,820	414,654
Year 4	210,675	34,257	34,257	34,257	34,257	347,703
Year 5	219,606	35,670	35,670	35,670	35,670	362,286
Total	804,717	192,813	192,813	192,813	192,813	1,575,969

A key outcome of this proposal is to leverage substantial funds from external parties. In the initial phase the agreement yields a contribution of \$804,717 from UWA.

It is anticipated that the proposal would see additional funds sourced through government (State and Commonwealth) grants for regional development research and policy work and also external research grants such as the Australian research Council.

STRATEGIC & REGIONAL OUTCOMES:

Strategic & Plan for the Future Outcomes:

Key Result Area 5: Opportunities for Prosperity

Outcome 3.1: A diverse economic base

Strategy 3.2.1: Promote the development and location of small business, commercial, State and Australian Government agencies.

Regional Outcomes:

The proposal will see the delivery of substantial research, modelling and data analysis which will enable the development of evidence based policy and other initiatives.

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL & CULTURAL ISSUES:

Economic:

The proposal will enable the coordination of considerable research capacity to provide demographic, social and economic data which can be used by government and the private sector in order to assist and develop proposals for the regional cities.

Social:

The analysis of data will enable the development of social policy based on a consistent and measurable basis for all participating cities.

Environmental:

The analysis of data will enable the development of social policy based on a consistent and measurable basis for all participating cities.

Cultural & Heritage:

Not applicable.

RELEVANT PRECEDENTS:

The City has previously entered into a research grant agreement with Curtin University to deliver the community consultation and engagement for the 2029 & Beyond project.

DELEGATED AUTHORITY:

The proposal is to allow the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to sign the partnership agreement with UWA.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS:

Although funds are provided within the Budget and Forward Estimates, an Absolute Majority is required as the proposal needs to confirm the expenditures in the out years (noting the Forward Estimates are purely estimates and do not reflect approved appropriations).

OPTIONS:

Option 1:

As per Executive Recommendation in this report.

Option 2:

That Council by Simple Majority pursuant to S3.18 of *the Local Government Act 1995 (as amended)* RESOLVES to:

1. NOT Endorse the Cooperation Agreement between the University of Western Australia and the members of the Western Australian regional Cities Alliance;
2. MAKES the determination based on the following reason:
 - a. as provided by Council at the meeting

Option 3:

That Council by Simple Majority pursuant to S3.18 of *the Local Government Act 1995 (as amended)* RESOLVES to:

1. DEFER consideration of the matter;
2. MAKES the determination based on the following reasons:
 - a. it seeks confirmation of participation of other parties;
 - b. Other as provided by Council at the meeting.

CONCLUSION:

The proposal creates a unique opportunity to leverage substantial real funds and in-kind contributions from the UWA and to also access additional capacity through government and research grant bodies.

This unique model will provide clear, substantiated and evidenced based policy directions and guides. Having such information and clear guidance will strengthen the position of WARCA to argue its case at both a national and state level.

EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION:

That Council by Absolute Majority pursuant to S3.18 of *the Local Government Act 1995 (as amended)* RESOLVES to:

1. ENDORSE the Cooperation Agreement between the University of Western Australia and the members of the Western Australian regional Cities Alliance;
2. APPROVE the funding contributions as detailed in the Agreement; and
3. ENDORSE the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to sign the Cooperation Agreement on behalf of Council.