

## 2006 – 2007 at a Glance

### SERVICE 1 – IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICY

*To ensure that the Minister and the Government are provided with quality information and support.*

**SNAPSHOT** Supported legislative amendments and informed stakeholders ... appointed General Inspectors to Animal Welfare Branch ... continued community leadership initiatives ... provided updates on regional economies

### MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- ❖ Supported the *Local Government Amendment Act 2006*, providing for a change of local government election day, in its passage through Parliament and provided information on its content to stakeholders.
- ❖ Supported the *Local Government (Official Conduct) Amendment Act 2007*, providing for a new disciplinary framework for councillors, in its passage through Parliament and provided information on its content to stakeholders.
- ❖ Supported the *Local Government Amendment Act 2007* which provided for a change to the preferential or proportional voting system.
- ❖ Finalised reviews of, and obtained Government approval to implement changes to, legislation including the *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995*, *Control of Vehicles (Off-Road Areas) Act 1978*, *Cemeteries Act 1986* and *Regional Development Commission Act 1993*.
- ❖ Undertook a major prosecution of a live export company and two of its Directors in conjunction with the State Solicitors' Office (Magistrate's decision pending).
- ❖ Appointed six General Inspectors at the Department for a two year period to enforce the *Animal Welfare Act 2002* primarily in the livestock export chain, with a particular focus on the Midland Saleyards, the feedlots supplying Fremantle and the Fremantle Port.
- ❖ In conjunction with industry, welfare agencies and the Department of Agriculture and Food WA (DAFWA), established two specialist Animal Welfare Advisory Committees to advise the Minister and assist sustainable animal welfare improvements to benefit animals, the community and industry.

- ❖ Represented the State Government on the Commonwealth Government's Livestock Export Standards Advisory Committee into the formulation of the Commonwealth Standards that apply to all livestock in Western Australia destined for the live export market.
- ❖ Licensed scientific establishments that use animals for scientific purposes and conducted inspections to ensure compliance with the *Animal Welfare Act 2002* and the Code of Practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes 7<sup>th</sup> Edition (Scientific Code).
- ❖ Surveyed a comparison of prices between Perth and regional Western Australia.
- ❖ Continued to release updated information on the economies of regional Western Australia.
- ❖ Updated web publications including "Estimated Resident Population" and the "Statistical Snapshot" to complement publication of Economic Perspectives. A regional map was also updated and made accessible to the public via the Department's website.
- ❖ Continued the allocation of funding and assistance under the Community Leadership initiative.
- ❖ Maintained the operation of the Regional Development Council.

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### SERVICE 2 – IMPROVED ACCESS TO SERVICES AND CAPACITY FOR DEVELOPMENT IN REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

*To enhance the social and economic development of communities through the provision of assistance, funding and leadership.*

SNAPSHOT funding for regional projects ... support for telecentre network ... funding for Indigenous leadership ... support for regional development policy ... moves to close Wittencoom townsite ... support local approach to improvements at Wiluna

#### MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- ❖ Provided support towards the implementation of the Regional Development Policy – ‘Regional Western Australia – A Better Place to Live’.
- ❖ Allocated funds through the Government’s second Regional Investment Fund, including funding for the Western Australian Regional Initiatives Scheme, Indigenous Regional Development Program and Regional Headworks Program.
- ❖ Facilitated partnerships between remote Indigenous communities, local governments and State and Federal agencies on the delivery of local government services and capacity building for improved governance in Indigenous communities.
- ❖ Gained the best advantage for Telecentres and their communities through available funding programs.
- ❖ Released a range of publications which focussed on Western Australian regional demographic and social change and promoting regional investment.
- ❖ Undertook regional price comparisons of commodities purchased in Perth and regional outlets.
- ❖ Commenced the implementation of a localised development approach to State investment in infrastructure and social programs in Wiluna.

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### SERVICE 3 – BETTER LOCAL GOVERNMENT

*Through advice, support and compliance monitoring, assist local governments to be more efficient and effective and to achieve good governance and be responsive to community needs.*

**SNAPSHOT** Information exchange with Ombudsman ... support to elected members ...  
monitor financial health of local governments ... encourage resource-sharing at local level

### MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- ❖ Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ombudsman and the Corruption and Crime Commission (CCC) to establish protocols for the regular exchange of information about complaints received about local governments.
- ❖ Made submissions to, and appeared before, the Public Accounts Committee in its inquiry into Local Government Accountability in Western Australia.
- ❖ Assisted the Local Government Advisory Board with preparing assessment reports on amalgamations, boundary amendments and ward reviews.
- ❖ Produced an electronic Compliance Audit Return form to assist local governments with improving their level of compliance.
- ❖ Undertook and completed investigations into matters referred from the Corruption and Crime Commission and assessed other local government complaints.
- ❖ Provided support to elected local government members, especially those newly elected, in the provision of good governance to the community.
- ❖ Supported the work of the Ministerial-appointed Advisory Committee on Women in Local Government.
- ❖ Monitored the financial health of local governments to improve performance including asset management practices as developed in a Memorandum of Understanding with local government.

- ❖ Encouraged collaboration and resource sharing efforts between local governments to ensure their sustainability, and provided funding to support resource sharing initiatives and more efficient structures for service delivery.
- ❖ Provided support for the intergovernmental agreement between the Minister for Local Government, the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments and the Australian Local Government Association; and also support for the State/Local Government Council.
- ❖ Released four new operational guidelines and conducted information sessions to support local governments in carrying out their functions.
- ❖ Assisted the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission to coordinate the allocation of \$195 million for financial assistance and local road grants to 142 local governments.
- ❖ Provided continued funding through the Outer Metropolitan Community fund to encourage, promote and support the sustainable development of outer metropolitan areas.
- ❖ Provided financial assistance through the Community Facilities Grants Program, for the capital cost of providing community facilities in regional areas.
- ❖ Continued to maintain a lead agency role in the development and implementation of the *Active Ageing at the Local Level Initiative* and conducted a second round of funding approvals of \$450,000 to 30 projects. This initiative has had strong uptake in regional areas.
- ❖ Provided local governments with relevant information on new legislation for the change of local government elections day from May to October and the introduction of preferential or proportional voting.