

Strategic Assessment of the Perth and Peel Regions (SAPPR) - Information Update from the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council August 2015

The Strategic Assessment Perth Peel Region commenced in 2011 and is being led by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (**DPC**) in partnership with the Commonwealth Department of the Environment (**DoE**).

The Strategic Assessment will assess the impact of the future development proposed under the following state land use planning documents on matters of national environmental significance (**MNES**) listed under the [Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999](#) (**EPBC Act**). It will also cover the EPA's assessment of state matters.

The purpose of the Strategic Assessment is to:

- *significantly reduce the need for project by project assessment under the EPBC Act in the Perth and Peel region*
- *deliver an effective long term and strategic response to key environmental issues in the Perth and Peel region, for example, Carnaby's Cockatoo and water quality in the Peel-Harvey estuary*
- *provide greater certainty to industry as to which areas can be developed and what the obligations will be in terms of mitigation, including environmental offsets*
- *provide greater certainty in terms of long term land supply to meet the needs of a city of 3.5 million.*

The Peel-Harvey Catchment Council is a contributor to The Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG), which was established in 2012 to allow regular engagement with key stakeholder groups prior to the public release of key policy and assessment documents. These include the Strategic Conservation Plan (SCP) and the Impact Assessment Report (IAR).

The public release of the SCP and IAR are anticipated to be publicly released early 2016, and the Environmental Protection Authorities Interim Strategic Advice document that will guide advice for these key policy and assessment documents is now available.

A Ministerial Taskforce will consider in August 2015 an Implementation Framework, that will contemplate changes to streamline State Environmental approval processes and an Offsets Framework that will examine recommendations for a consistent strategic approach to achieving agreed environmental outcomes across Commonwealth and State requirements - a shift from the current project by project process.

Running parallel to the SAPPR process is the WA Planning Commission's (**WAPC**) Draft Perth and Peel @3.5 Million Strategic Plan, which includes a suite of draft sub-regional planning frameworks for the Central, North-West, North-East and South Metropolitan Peel sub-regions. Public comment was opened on 30 April and closed 31 July 2015.

Concerns have been raised by SRG representatives at the disconnection between the release and comment period for the **WAPC Draft Plan and sub-regional planning frameworks (31 July 2015)**, the **EPA, Interim Strategic Advice (August 2015)** and the first release of the **SAPPR documents for public comment (2016)**. It was noted that the disjointed approach across agencies and document releases had presented challenges for informed comment when preparing submissions against the Draft WAPC Plan.

In response to the concerns raised at the meeting that the WAPC would proceed to finalise statutory Sub-Regional Structure Plans before the release of the draft SAPPR documents, members requested that the WAPC should consider the following options:

- *call for a further round of public comment on the draft frameworks once the draft SAPPR documents were made public; or*
- *prepare draft Sub-Regional Structure Plans, incorporating feedback from the current round of consultation, and release these drafts for public comment once the draft SAPPR documents were made public.*

The SRG's full Chair's Summary Notes of the Meeting held on 23 July 2015 is available on the SAPPR website <https://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/Consultation/StrategicAssessment/Pages/Default.aspx>.