EMMA DE JAGER
Perth in 2029... innovative, vibrant frontrunner of technological advancements through good planning.

Some might call us the nanny state but Perth and greater WA are transforming into a more vibrant city and State each year.
The aspirations, ideas and vision for a wider WA community with the city’s inner hub are becoming nearer every day with services and activities to rival our Eastern States counterparts.

RYAN ZAKNICH
Perth in 2029 will be internationally known as a tourism hotspot with daily direct flights from London, Paris, Frankfurt, Beijing and Mumbai.

No longer just the gateway to WA, it will be a destination in its own right with living and innovative arts and cultural scene.

By 2029, Indian visitors will outnumber Chinese tourists. Visitors will be seeking authentic tourism experiences and this will drive a huge growth in indigenous tourism.

At the heart of this will be the National Indigenous Centre at Elizabeth Quay. The Swan River will start to reach its potential as a provider of alternative traffic.

A commuter ferry service will link Fisherman’s Bend in Guildford to Elizabeth Quay and onwards down towards Fremantle.

This service will also become a driver of tourism growth in the inner-city suburbs.

Privately built toll traffic bridges and a parallel pedestrian bridges will cross Melville Water and provide north-south links across the Swan River.

Heritage building retention laws will be strongly enforced and the general practice of developers pushing for demolition without adequate heritage assessment will be a thing of the past.

The triangle value of cultural diversity will begin to outstrip the monetary value of developments.

Fremantle will be gradually phased out as a working port by this time and C.Y. O’Connor’s great vision of the outer harbour in Cockburn Sound will be under way.

The current port will have started to be transformed into a thriving mix of residential, commercial and recreation, providing the critical boost Fremantle requires to recapture its mantle as a tourism mecca.

Ryan Zaknich is manager of Two Feet and a Heartbeat walking tours.

MARIAN FULKER
Perth in 2029 will celebrate its official “birthday” but does so in a way that celebrates its relationship with the landscape and the thousands of generations of Aboriginal people who have inhabited it.

It will have shrugged off the façade of being a new city and instead acknowledge and respect its long, deep history.

The region will have tightened its metaphorical belt and the rate of sprawl, pockets of urbanity where people live, work and play will be dished throughout the metropolis like a jewelled necklace.

The Perth of the future will have a comprehensive public and active transport network which is quick and frequent, day and night, and will rival the car as the way of commuting.

It will be a place where its cultural landscape is alive and its citizens are welcoming and tolerant of others.

Perth’s natural and physical beauty will continue to improve and live will be healthy, brimming with marine life and ringed by indigenous trees at the river’s edge — a place where families and friends gather. Perth residents will be among the healthiest in the country and people of all ages will be active and meaningful lives.

Perth in 2029 will no longer have a crick in its neck from gazing east for validation.

Its creativity, innovation and entrepreneurial nature will help the region lead the country in new thinking and know-how.

Our vision for Perth 2029
To conclude our series on Perth in 2029 — when the capital celebrates its 200th birthday — we have asked six West Australians to share their vision, hopes and aspirations for the city.

PETER NEWMAN
In 1979, I celebrated the city’s 150th birthday as a Fremantle councillor leading the campaign to save the Fremantle railway.

I knew it was wrong to close train lines even if the plan suggested that Perth was going to be a “car town”.

We won that and started on the journey to try to win back the city for more sustainable transport.

I hope the road works will be much, much, much, but we did — electrifying the trains, extending to the north, then to the south and now we have Metronet and light rail about to give us a semi-decent network and joining up the fast trains at major stations. Each of the stations will have medium-density developments with local services, shopping and child care within walking distance, so that those who don’t want a car won’t need one.

Others between the train corridors will get to the network by electric bus, bike or autonomous cars. Most cars will be electric.

All the trains, buses and cars will be run on solar energy.

In 2029, on the 300th anniversary of opening the Swan railway, we will wonder what could possibly have got into those planners.

Peter Newman is professor of sustainable at Curtin University.

EVAN HALL
Perth has a bright future as a global city that will draw not only visitors from around the world but also people who want to live in an economically and socially diverse society.

Tourism will be a central part of this by creating diverse jobs and great social experience.

Tourism has the potential to emerge as the leading economic driver and job creator in WA by 2029, by which time the industry could inject more than $11 billion a year into the State economy and create more than 180,000 jobs.

Perth is on its way to becoming a fantastic and appealing destination by 2029. Our cultural appeal will be well-established with a year-round calendar of events such as Perth Stadium and a new museum in the city.

A plethora of international direct flights will transform Perth into Australia’s European gateway, and more direct interstate flights to Perth and our regional destinations will make WA’s offerings more accessible to all.

Thousands more hotel rooms will have been constructed, helping Perth to shrug off its tag as an uncomfortable destination.

We must have the courage to embrace new experiences that share the great natural and cultural values of our city, experiences such as a cable car, hot springs, wave parks, helipads and Segway tours.

As our city grows and we embrace its prosperity and vibrant city, we should promote it proudly around the world as a place to work and play for major event attendees, business travellers, international students and incoming immigrants.

Evan Hall is Tourism Council chief executive.

BRADLEY WOODS
Hospitality offerings around the Swan River and Indian Ocean beachfront will be enhanced by 2029.

We will see a balance between the preservation of our beautiful natural environment and the development of accommodation and hospitality, with low-impact eco-developments and progressive thinking creating hubs that are truly down to Earth — City Beach and Elizabeth Quay are good examples.

Managing tourism and our environment together over the next decade is crucial.

Perth is well positioned as a hub for international conferences and events and the gateway between Asia, Europe and the east coast of Australia.

The potential for the conference and events industry is huge, with direct flights from Europe and Britain to position us at the geographic apex for travel.

Perth’s future will be focused on positioning itself as a world-class destination for hotel and hospitality management training.

Perth is geographically positioned to capture students from Asia.

An international school focused on hotel and hospitality excellence should be created to attract export sector and focus on the development of West Australians to go on to be sought after in the hotel and hospitality industry.

Bradley Woods is Australian Hotels Association (WA) chief executive.

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