

27 January 2015

Local Government Advisory Board  
c/- Department of Local Government and Communities  
Gordon Stephenson House  
GPO Box R1250, Perth WA 6844

Dear Members of the LGAB,

### Proposed City of Perth Act

The Committee for Perth (the Committee) is an influential member-based organisation driven by Perth's business and community leaders. We promote and enable change that improves the cultural diversity, economic prosperity, sustainability and world-class amenity of Perth.

As part of our research and advocacy focus we have been championing the need for local government reform and thank you for the opportunity to present our views on the proposed City of Perth Act.

This submission has been prepared with input from our Reforming Working Group. It articulates the Committee's views on the proposed City of Perth Act and limits itself to comments on the purpose and objectives of the Act. Our expertise lies in commenting on Point 1 of the consultation paper given our research into creating a vision for the Perth and Peel regions detailed in *Towards a Bright Future, a blueprint for Perth as a region of 3.5 million people*, a copy of which can be found at <http://www.committeeforperth.com.au/pdf/Advocacy/ReportTowardsBrightFutureSeptember2012.pdf>

### Vision for Perth and Role of the City

The Committee's vision is for a metropolitan region with an integrated strategic plan which ensures that metropolitan Perth as the State's capital:

- promotes the high value of its people;
- embraces its natural environment;
- is vibrant and innovative;
- participates on the world stage; and
- has a strong sense of place.

Our view is that fragmented metropolitan local governance has hindered the potential to achieve this vision. We have consistently advocated that in order for Perth to effectively compete with other metropolitan regions throughout the world now and in the future, the

Committee for Perth Limited

ACN 118 292 792

Ground Floor, 996 Hay Street, Perth, WA 6000

t (08) 9481 5699

f (08) 9481 7738

e [enquiries@committeeforperth.com.au](mailto:enquiries@committeeforperth.com.au)

Our work is fully funded by our members and foundation partners. We acknowledge:



A complete list of current members is available at [www.committeeforperth.com.au](http://www.committeeforperth.com.au)

metropolitan area needs to be formally organised to explicitly serve the purposes of the region in pursuit of economic, environmental, social and cultural development.

The Committee has therefore supported and advocated for structural reform of local government, however it has been our sustained view that this reform needs to shift beyond the amalgamation of Councils. Rather, we believe that true reform should have been undertaken to include the development of a new structure for regional leadership and for co-ordination of local governance throughout the metropolitan region.

Therefore, while a strong city centre is a critical and central component of a functional and competitive metropolitan region, any vision or goals for the Capital City Act should not be isolated but complementary to a shared vision and goals for the metropolitan region as a whole.

In this context the Committee strongly supported the independent Metropolitan Local Government Review process and provided support to all of the Panel's recommendations, with the view that recommendations 1 to 16; recommendation 21 and recommendations 26 to 30 were the most critical and should be implemented as a priority.

As outlined by in their final report, the Panel's recommendations were geared towards providing the right foundations for Perth's future. The Panel's recommendations were intended to work together as a suite and the Panel strongly recommended they be considered as a complete reform package, which should be implemented in its entirety for maximum success. The Committee continues to support this view.

Therefore, as well as undertaking amalgamations and increasing and delineating the role and size of the City of Perth, priority must be urgently and concurrently given to delivering best practice community engagement and delivering a mechanism for greater region-wide coordination and cooperation.

As such we believe that the purpose and objectives of the City of Perth Act should strongly reflect the role of the City of Perth in the context of the Perth metropolitan region. Ultimately there is a need for the City of Perth to work with other local authorities and engage the wider community to facilitate improved regional wide coordination and cooperation – and deliver a shared vision for the metropolitan region as a whole.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed City of Perth Act.

Yours sincerely,



Marion Fulker  
CEO