



Our Ref: 200600811; 200600894

W97-0100



Mr N Smithson
Managing Director
Smithson Planning
PO Box 5377
ALBANY WA 6332

Dear Mr Smithson

Thank you for your letters raising concerns about the lack of local, State and Federal involvement in your Regional Planning Strategy for Albany and the Great Southern area.

The Government of Western Australia is committed to promoting sustainable development in regional areas. This commitment is demonstrated both through management of planning projects by the Western Australian Planning Commission and other State agencies and ongoing cooperative involvement in initiatives by local governments and other agencies to guide and promote development throughout the State.

You make reference to the Lower Great Southern Strategy and the Albany Local Planning Strategy, which are currently in different stages of preparation.

Both of these offer the opportunity for you and other members of the community to submit your views and recommendations for the area. I understand that your plan includes a proposal to relocate the Port of Albany and that this has not been supported in the past by various Ministers, the Chairman of the Western Australian Planning Commission, officers from the former Department of Transport and the current Department for Planning and Infrastructure.

I appreciate your offer to present the Strategy to me and the invitation to attend the Albany exhibition in April. However, I regret that I am unable to accept your offer to present the Strategy, or attend your exhibition. I invite you to continue to liaise with local and State agencies involved in planning and regional development in the region.

Yours sincerely

Alan Carpenter MLA

PREMIER

17 MAR 2006