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## City of Greater Geraldton

# 2.6 MINE RESOURCING

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### SUSTAINABILITY THEME

Economy

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### OBJECTIVE

To position Geraldton as a Fly-In/Fly-Out (FIFO) and Drive-In/Drive-Out (DIDO) hub as appropriate for workers employed with the mining companies operating in the Pilbara, Murchison, Midwest and Gascoyne regions, as opposed to Perth dominating servicing of the region's resource sector workforce needs.

To advocate support for hinterland Midwest region Local Government Authorities to ensure that mining operations deliver maximum economic and social benefit to the communities in direct proximity to each mining operation.

This Policy is a component of the strategy under Healthy Circulation of the Geraldton Jobs and Growth Plan 2020-2023.

### POLICY STATEMENT

**Policy:** The City will support strengthening the position of Geraldton as a Fly-In/Fly-out (FIFO) and Drive-In/Drive-Out (DIDO) hub and establish a 'hub and spoke' approach to support mine site economic & social development opportunities for regional hinterland communities in which the mines are located.

**Rationale:** The City of Greater Geraldton is a key regional centre and focus for economic development in the Midwest. Significant investment in large-scale mining and mineral projects and supporting infrastructure is taking place in the region. In-region benefits are not captured with Perth as the main FIFO hub for mine workforces. Geraldton is of significant population size, capacity and livability to act as an alternative resource source for mine site FIFO or DIDO operations.

Current practice for mines in hinterland areas commonly sees mining camps established as 'independent communities' outside of rural town boundaries. This represents a lost opportunity for both miners and the local communities, with many rural settlements experiencing population loss, lower school enrolments and reduced business/economic growth.

This Policy envisages City action within resources made available via Council budgets from time to time to:

- Encourage existing and new regional mining ventures to use Geraldton as a FIFO or DIDO hub for mine workers, with Geraldton developed as a source for specialist staff;
- Collaborate with mining companies to attract their workforces and families to live in Geraldton;
- Locate mining camps in or near to rural Midwest towns reasonably adjacent to mine sites (e.g. within 1 hour drive), rather than create separate settlements, and pursue opportunities to integrate mining camp operations into the economic and social fabric of existing towns;
- Support local procurement contact points (such as the MWDC-based Principal Local Content Advisor) and encourage the local sourcing of products, services and staff by mining companies and their contractors; and

- Ensure that the planning and development of workforce accommodation is consistent with local planning strategies and schemes, except where the Mining Act 1978 and State Agreement Acts prevail.

Two significant State-based initiatives provide context for this approach:

- The Queensland State Government’s regulatory measures to enforce better regional outcomes via their “*Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act 2017*”; and
- The Western Australia Planning Commission (WAPC) State Policy view on mining camps/town locations included in their January 2018 “*Position Statement on Workforce Accommodation*”.

## POLICY DETAILS

1. The City will encourage existing and new regional mining ventures to use Geraldton as a workforce source and FIFO or DIDO hub as appropriate.
2. The City’s Economic Development Unit will collaborate with mining companies to attract their workforces to live in Geraldton.
3. The City will encourage existing and new regional mining ventures to source products, services and staff from the local community.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Director Corporate & Commercial Services is responsible for oversight of implementation and operation of this policy.

Director Infrastructure Services is responsible for delivery and maintenance of existing or new infrastructure, facilities or public amenities approved by Council consistent with this policy.

Director Development & Community Services is responsible for oversight by City Rangers of all matters of compliance with local laws and regulations.

## WORKPLACE INFORMATION

*Geraldton Jobs and Growth Plan 2020-2023*

## POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Directorate		Officer	Review Cycle	Next Due
Corporate and Commercial Services		Manager Strategic Planning and Economic Development	Biennial	2022
Version	Decision Reference	Synopsis		
2.		Scheduled policy review		