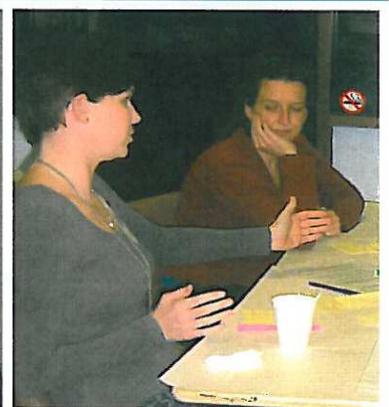
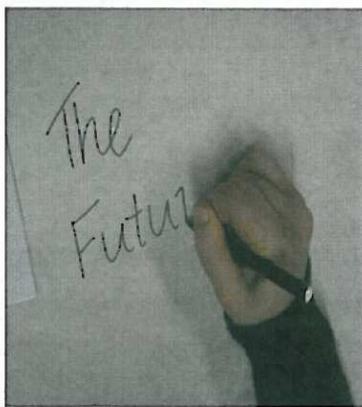
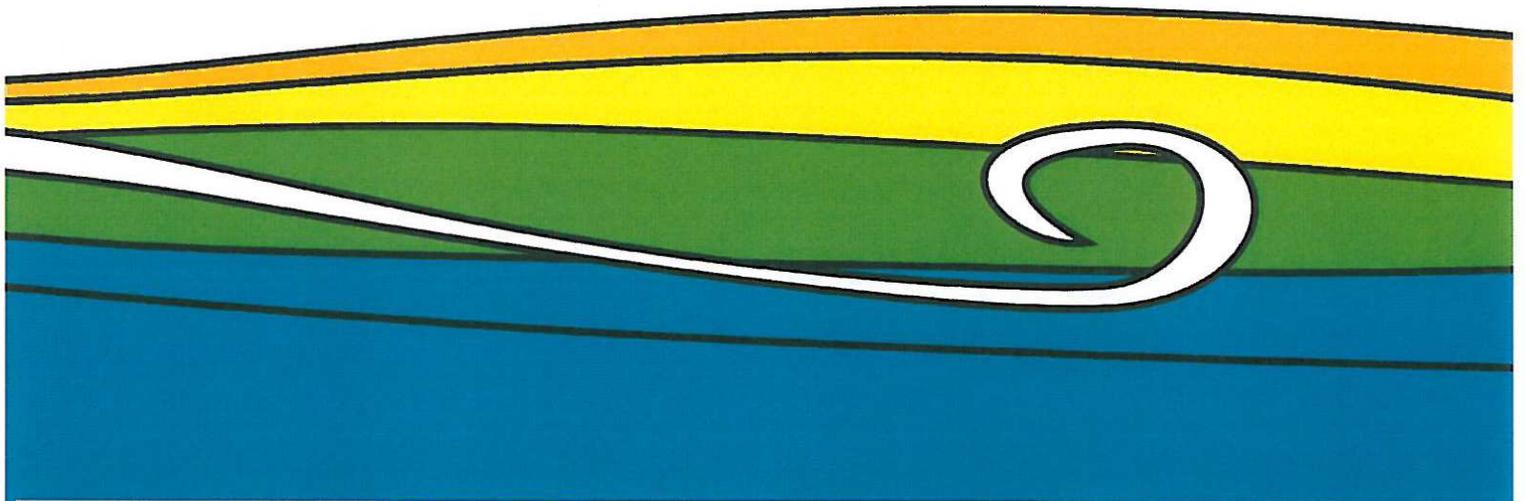




A vision by and for the community
of Greater Geraldton City Region

WORLD CAFES
Section 2
Report on Champion's
World Café Long
Term Visions

August 2010



lotterywest
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City of
Geraldton-Greenough
Climate of Opportunity



Stage 1 of the Community Visioning Process

Executive Summary

In an innovative planning project, 'Geraldton 2029 and Beyond' the people are being engaged in understanding the challenges and opportunities facing the region, collaboratively problem solving, making decisions and taking actions to guide the future sustainability of the region. Achieving resilience and sustainability will be critical given the challenges of high ecological and infrastructure vulnerability to climate change as well as significant changes in regional demography given the expansion of the resource sector, a major Port development, Oakajee, together with high tech opportunities such as the global science project SKA, the Australian Pathfinder ASKAP and the National Broadband Network rollout. As part of a comprehensive process of public deliberation, this report documents the outcomes of the first stage in an ongoing community visioning process. The visions that it contains are based on the reports of a series of community forums, 'world cafes' that were facilitated by community 'champions'. The 'champions' are a group of community members who have volunteered to be trained in community engagement techniques and to implement them in the community.

The 'world café' visions are grouped into twelve themes:

1. Population

Geraldton retains its unique character as population grows.

2. Urban planning and development

The future development of Geraldton is well planned following principles of sustainability.

3. Transport

Geraldton is serviced by a range of transport options, including public transport walking and cycling.

4. Employment and economic development

Geraldton's economy is diverse and equitably provides a range employment opportunities.

5. Natural heritage conservation

Geraldton's unique natural heritage is well managed for conservation.

6. Eco-efficiency

Geraldton has reduced its carbon footprint and made rapid gains in eco efficiency.

7. Governance

The people of Geraldton share responsibility for creating a better future with an engaged and representative local government.

8. Community and cultural development

Geraldton has a diverse, equitable, multicultural and cohesive community.

9. Aboriginal Heritage

Geraldton is Yamatji Country. Aboriginal culture and heritage is celebrated and visible.

10. Health

The people of Geraldton enjoy a healthy lifestyle and excellent health services.

11. Sport and Recreation

A wide range of sporting and recreation opportunities meet the diverse needs of the Geraldton community.

12 Education

A wide range of school and tertiary education choices are responsive to the diverse needs of the Geraldton community.



Background

To make the most of the unprecedented development opportunities and challenges facing the Greater Geraldton Region, the City of Geraldton- Greenough is leading an innovative project to create a collaborative vision and plans for the future. Unlike many planning ventures, ordinary people are at the centre and forefront of the planning process. The aim is to co-create a vision, framework and plans for sustainable development and growth for the region. This will provide all sectors of our region with a greater level of clarity and certainty about our agreed desired future.

Integral to the Geraldton 2029 project is the development of collaborative governance working together with a deliberative community. An Alliance Governance Group of decision-makers from government and industry as well as randomly sampled community members, including Indigenous people have the task of prioritising and helping to fast track considered community recommendations. Such recommendations are developed through comprehensive opportunities for public deliberation. So far, these have included world cafes, a deliberative survey, the Big Sky Big Ideas festival and online deliberation. The world cafes were spear-headed by a group of around forty community ‘champions’ who have volunteered to be trained in how to facilitate and organise opportunities for public deliberation. Between April and June 2010, the community champions conducted a series of ‘world cafés’ in the community. A ‘world café’ is an opportunity for people to deliberate in small groups, moving from table to table, having serious conversations about questions that matter to them. The assumption is that people already have within them the wisdom and creativity to confront even the most difficult challenges. In these world cafes, community members explored three questions:

- 1) What is it about the Greater Geraldton City Region that makes it a GREAT place to live for you and your family and friends? What do you most appreciate about it and want to KEEP into the future?*
- 2) IMAGINE the Greater Geraldton City Region in 2030 and it's a great place to live: What are the most important descriptions of your vision; What has changed?*
- 3) What should we be doing NOW to ensure the Greater Geraldton City Region is a great place to live in 2030?*

A total of 36 world cafes were held with 395 community members participating overall. Seven world cafes included a majority of Indigenous participants, seven cafés included a majority of youth participants, and eleven cafes included primarily blue collar workers (this category also included office workers).



1st Report – Potential Quick Wins

The first outcome of the Champions World Cafés was a list of priority actions. A shortlist of priorities from the combined results of all the world cafes was prepared by an independent researcher. The final list of priorities was determined by the Community Champions in conjunction with the Geraldton 2029 Alliance Governance Group and City of Geraldton-Greenough, Chapman Valley and Mullewa shire councillors. The priorities are listed in Box 1.

Box 1 World café priorities as determined by the Champions and Alliance governance group and City of Geraldton-Greenough, Chapman Valley and Mullewa Shire councillors

1. Plants 1 million trees & create community (permaculture) gardens
2. Display all butcher paper ideas from world cafes at Northgate and Stirlings
3. Establish more wind, solar, tidal (wave), geothermal & biomass
4. Bike capital – incentives for bike use
5. Youth centre – a place to get advice on everything
6. Give young people a greater say, speak their mind and get involved into politics
7. Introduce a cat bus to service residents and tourists
8. Establish a Community Aboriginal education precinct

Implementation Teams will be established for each of the priorities. Each team will have members from the community, commerce and government agencies, with support from the City.



2nd Report – 1st Stage of Community Visioning

This report has been prepared by an independent researcher to identify core long-term visions that emerge from the champions' world cafes.

This summary of the vision themes will form the 1st stage of the community visioning process. As the deliberation process proceeds with increasingly critical but difficult questions being addressed, the vision will develop greater clarity and depth. This process will provide the framework and direction for the City and community sustainability plans for the future.

The draft long-term visions from the World Cafés were determined using an inductive content analysis. Beginning with the combined notes from all world cafés, themes were generated to reflect the primary areas being discussed. Each statement in the notes was placed under one or more theme headings. The generation of themes was an iterative process unfolding with the analysis to best reflect the content of the world café conversations.

These themes have been offered for reviewed by the community champions to cross check their correspondence with the world cafes and overviewed by the Alliance team.

Many long-term visions for Geraldton were discussed in the world cafes. Some were common across many world cafes. Others were key themes in a smaller number of cafes. Where there were divergent opinions these are also briefly summarised.

The World Café participants came up with an inspiring range of visions for the future. These visions, however are not meant to represent consensus across the world cafes or the Geraldton community itself. They are a summary of the diverse aspirations of the participants that took part in these important conversations.

In some instances, world cafe groups developed carefully worked visionary proposals. A snapshot of these is included in the final section of this report



Visions for the future from the Community Champion's Word cafés

1. Population

1.1 Geraldton retains its laid back, country feel as the population grows.

Divergent views

- Some see increased diversity in the population is a positive.
- Some had concerns about social impacts of population growth, particularly if it is not family focussed.
- Some want Geraldton to stay the same size as it is now.
- Some welcome the increased services and facilities that will come with population growth.

2. Planning and Urban Development

2.1 The development of Geraldton is well planned focussing on principles of sustainability such as minimising sprawl, maintaining heritage values, creating a sense of place, and ensuring sustainable infrastructure. There are clear specifications for sustainable buildings and developments.

2.2 Geraldton CBD is revitalised. Commercial real estate is occupied. Development is mixed including housing, retail and restaurants with plenty of good public open spaces and communal meeting areas. There is a diversity of retail including local produce and designers alongside the retail goods available in other vibrant urban centres.

2.3 Development is respectful of and integrated with the natural environment and there are intact coastal and bushland areas within the town limits.

2.4 The availability of housing keeps pace with population growth and housing is affordable for all. There is more housing for Aboriginal people. There is no more homelessness.

Divergent views

- Some welcome revitalised urban development
- Some prefer Geraldton to stay the same
- Some are concerned about the environmental impact of development, particularly on the dunes and the coastline



3. Transport

3.1 There are a choice of transport options for travelling around Geraldton, between Geraldton and surrounding areas and between Geraldton and Perth.

3.2 Regular public transport services create links across Geraldton and between Geraldton and its satellite communities. A train links Geraldton and Perth.

3.3 Safe cycle routes link suburbs and attractions. Footpaths are expanded and there are places where pedestrians and cyclists have priority over cars.

Divergent views

- For some it is important to improve access for cars by increasing car parking availability in the city.
- Others want less focus on cars – perhaps even a car free CBD.

4. Employment and Economic Development

4.1 Geraldton has a diverse economic base that provides a range of employment opportunities.

4.2 Opportunities for employment are equitable, with fair pay and career development pathways for everyone. There is support for Aboriginal employment including specific positions and more Aboriginal employment in mainstream organisations. There are more apprenticeships available for youth.

4.3 Oakajee port is a focus for industry utilising renewable energy. The foreshore has been reclaimed and is a recreational focus for the community.

4.4 Geraldton uses its intellectual capital and has access to state of the art communications technology.



5. Natural Heritage Conservation

5.1 Conservation of natural heritage is a top priority, including bushland, the coast and river systems. Protected areas are well managed and key areas are protected from development.

5.2 Geraldton's climate and coastline support an unsurpassed coastal lifestyle that is preserved for the future by protecting the beaches and sand dunes and marine environment.

Divergent views

The nature of future coastal development is an important area for further clarification.

- Some want to protect the coastal areas from development.
- Some would like to see sensitive coastal development.
- Some would like to see the Geraldton foreshore developed.

6. Eco-efficiency

6.1 The City of Geraldton has reduced its carbon footprint and achieved rapid gains in eco-efficiency. It is a leader in renewable energy, utilising a diverse range of sources like wind, solar and wave energy. All power is produced locally.

6.2 There is a comprehensive recycling program in place.

6.3 There is a sustainable approach to water supply, including water saving and recycling.

6.4 There is a growth in urban self-sufficiency with a focus on eco-village development and community gardens.

7. Governance

7.1 A broad range of community members nominate for Council. There are visionaries on Council; there is less risk aversion and bureaucracy.

7.2 There are Indigenous representatives on Council and this raises awareness of Indigenous issues in the wider community. The Council listens to the community.

7.3 The community has ownership over the future of Geraldton and they drive the transition for a sustainable future. There is effective communication between the Council and community, and the City of Geraldton listens and acts in response to community engagement.

7.4 Young people have opportunities to share their ideas and they are embraced in planning for the future of Geraldton.



8. Community and Cultural Development

8.1 There are many positive things for young people to do in Geraldton. More youth centres have been built that provide a range of activities that young people want to do and a safe space for young people to meet and get support and advice. There are safe youth activities at night, like an underage nightclub.

8.2 There are better services for seniors, including transport, health, leisure and housing; and culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal elders. Bridges of respect are being built between the generations.

8.3 Geraldton is family friendly – there are places for families to get together and there is support for parents and grandparents.

8.4 Geraldton has embraced its history and multi-cultural heritage. Racism has been addressed and there are good relationships between Aboriginal and non Aboriginal people. Young Aboriginal people do not experience prejudice.

8.5 Festivals, markets and concerts contribute to a vibrant cultural life and bring the people of Geraldton together.

8.6 Antisocial behaviour is not tolerated in the community. People know where to get help if there is a disagreement.

9. Aboriginal Heritage

9.1 This is Yamatji Country. Aboriginal culture and heritage is celebrated and visible. It is an integral part of school and community education. Tourists come to Geraldton for its Aboriginal cultural experiences.

9.2 An Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge and Community Centre has been built.

9.3 Elders and young Aboriginal people come together, cultural knowledge is taught and the young people are proud of being Aboriginal. The Aboriginal community is strong and Aboriginal people are in decision-making roles.



10. Health

10.1 The health of the people of Geraldton is enhanced by their healthy lifestyle.

10.2 Hospital services have been upgraded and make use of the best technology.

10.3 The Aboriginal Medical Service is supported to provide a broad range of services to the Aboriginal Community.

10.4 There are improved services for those who have alcohol and other drug problems.

11. Sport and Recreation

11.1 A wide range of sporting and entertainment opportunities meets the diverse needs of the community from the very young to mature citizens. These range from team sports, to a range of entertainment venues, public outdoor spaces like skate parks and BMX tracks, and outdoor recreation pursuits.

11.2 A large entertainment complex hosts a range of sporting and entertainment events.

12. Education

12.1 A wide range of tertiary qualifications are available in Geraldton. This attracts people into the region and fewer young people leave the region for higher education.

12.2 Many local schools provide quality education for all local children. Education suits a range of learning styles and supports Aboriginal children to excel in school.

12.3 Aboriginal culture and history is included in the curriculum and schools are provided with cultural awareness programs.

12.4 An Aboriginal Community Education Precinct and Aboriginal Leadership program has been established.



Visionary examples from the Champion's world café's

Council to make land available for an Eco village. All buildings eco friendly with solar and water tanks. Limited vehicle access to the area. Eco villages are situated around the city – they are self sufficient in power, a community centre is the central hub with community gardens and green buffer zones between them and/or other suburbs. Walk and riding paths connect the eco villages. Public transport is provided into the CBD as cars are discouraged.

Aboriginal people don't only live on the east side of the dune – housing prices on the west side are affordable for Aboriginal people too. And this mixing of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people helps break down racism, which only happens when people have ongoing contact with each other, like living opposite each other.

Geraldton has developed its intellectual capital and become a University city, partly in association with the development of high-tech IT and other industries associated with CSIRO and SKA.

Schools adopt a “look after” area (ie. park/bush) close to their school that the school keeps clean and removes litter. Remnant bushland has been protected for all to enjoy.

There's a World Centre of Excellence for Sustainability and Renewable Energy (wind, solar, wave) and adaptation to climate change (both rural and city), creating micro-energy generation for the area which is managed from here. There's an annual Festival of the Winds providing exposé of these features and incorporating fun activities such as a Kite Festival.

CGG demonstrates its LISTENING TO AND ACTING in response to community feedback (including World Cafes), and initiates an annual survey/community workshop to gauge community satisfaction with/ideas for the Sustainable Future City process. CGG commissions an analysis of the City's and the community's key proposals and how these may impact on the community's 'lifestyle' visions for 2030; and then commissions a research project to identify strategies and policies for preserving the 'relaxed lifestyle' of 2010 within the context of the anticipated large population increase.

Geraldton is the artistic, cultural and multi-cultural centre of the Midwest (and possibly beyond), with a wide range of cultural activities: quality visual art, art exhibitions, music, literature, theatre, regular arts festivals, and culturally oriented pubs. Quality Aboriginal arts are part of this mix, as are young artist's contributions and ideas.



Visionary examples from the Champion's world café's

Geraldton's cultural diversity is celebrated and welcomed (Aboriginal, Asian, Muslim religion, Maori, early settler families and their histories) and demonstrated by the use of Aboriginal and other cultural names for streets/parks/centres.

Men's "Refuge": Usually when domestic violence is a problem, the victims (women and children) are removed from the cause of their problem (the violent male). The suggestion is that the violent person be removed instead.

Reasons why: it is fairer to the victims and sends a more appropriate message to the whole family and potentially society, about who is responsible for the problem; disruption to the children is minimized and because it is only 1 person being alternatively housed, it means more such situations can be dealt with for the economic cost. Conduct a study of other communities who have successfully reduced violence and anti-social behaviour.

There are lots more gathering places for Aboriginal people, with trees/shade, tables – like St Georges Beach: "you feel alive because your people are there – and it's not a funeral ..."

Take the energy crisis seriously and plan Geraldton for an energy-efficient future, including light rail servicing the town. CGG develops a rating mechanism, and other mechanisms, to reward those who run commerce/industry sustainably and in a way that enhances the community's lifestyle.

Ensure developers effectively financially contribute to ongoing management. I.e. land developers provide money for ongoing implementation of water plans and parks, etc. Construction for new shops and hotels provide money for City provision of increased public parking.

A Community Aboriginal Education precinct has been built and includes:

A Leadership Academy: 'Changing Your Life'. This builds capacity in young people to:

- Be more receptive of other cultures;
- Teach stronger culture, pride, respect for and valuing culture; and
- Be responsible for their choices.

An Aboriginal Studies Centre for Excellence – to include:

- A one-stop shop providing holistic education for all community members;
- Grandmother brings baby to crèche, then goes to do her studies;
- Teachers come for Cultural Studies: learn excellence in Aboriginal studies;
- A crèche for babies of young mother still at school; and
- Tertiary education support provided by TAFE, Universities, Football/Netball Academies



Visionary examples from the Champion's world café's

Change housing styles and urban planning to promote a specific characteristic of aesthetics combined with sustainability, within which there's lots of variety: winding roads, varied block sizes and housing placement and style, lots of trees, open green space every four or so houses with all house being within one km of a beautiful public space, variety in streetscapes (eg houses in a ring, looking into central green space); design things so that the community (via its housing placement), rather than CCTV cameras, monitors youth activity.

Create more cultural pride in young people: get old and young together more, possibly at a bush camp, where cultural knowledge is taught so young ones have something to be proud of - pride in being Aboriginal and pride in their elders.

Biodiversity: survey, preserve and increase native bushland (especially around rivers and beaches), build corridors through suburban areas, install steps and ramps (for disabled access) down to beaches preventing erosion, remove all non-native Council plantings and replace them with native species.

Lobby now for more Indigenous Councillors and encourage and support people we feel could represent us in Council and as Mayor. This improves reconciliation through 'bridging the gap' by ensuring everyone has equal representation, individually and combined.

Decision making needs to consider the social and environmental impacts (triple bottom line) and be in the interests of the entire Greater Geraldton community now and for the future. i.e.. Tougher on developers, in the interests of all socio-economic groups, local regulation of sustainable building specifications.

Provide infrastructure and services that support the philosophy of sustainable development including; recycling, tree planting in suburbs and along road verges, promoting native gardens, protection of the environment (fences and restoration/rehabilitation of bushland etc) and improving alternative transport options (construction of paths/bikeways and bus services).

Use of the Tardun farm school; more Cognitive Behaviour Therapy programs; youth go out to the farms to work away from the distractions of the city to learn life skills; more mentors for youth.



Visionary examples from the Champion's world café's

Protect coastline - and elsewhere - from erosion and over-development, and manage it in ways which encourage its use by locals and tourists, including planting lots of trees **now** so they're providing good erosion-protection and shade by 2030. Protect, sustainably manage and enhance existing areas of natural beauty from 'development' by developers/mining industry/fishing industry/agriculture - establish more reserved 'green' areas (including beaches) and preserve existing 'green' areas as much as possible.

More programs to reach out and engage with the homeless and give them a voice and a profile and a presence in the broader community e.g. a committee to collaborate to address their needs for shelter, integration, support, education, skills. Tapping in to all resources to use them more efficiently.

Play together, work together, is the only way we are going to grow and stay as a community. We are all working towards one similar goal (to keep Geraldton as a manageable town, low hustle).

Reserved Aboriginal land has been reclaimed, Bundiyarra land has been developed, and as a result Aboriginal culture is more strongly in evidence via:

- Yamatji trails: Geraldton to Meekatharra /Wiluna;
- Walking trails: stories of Aboriginal history;
- Streets are names after Aboriginal people;
- Aboriginal history of Geraldton area is in evidence;
- Cultural festivals are held; and
- An Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge and Community Centre has been built.