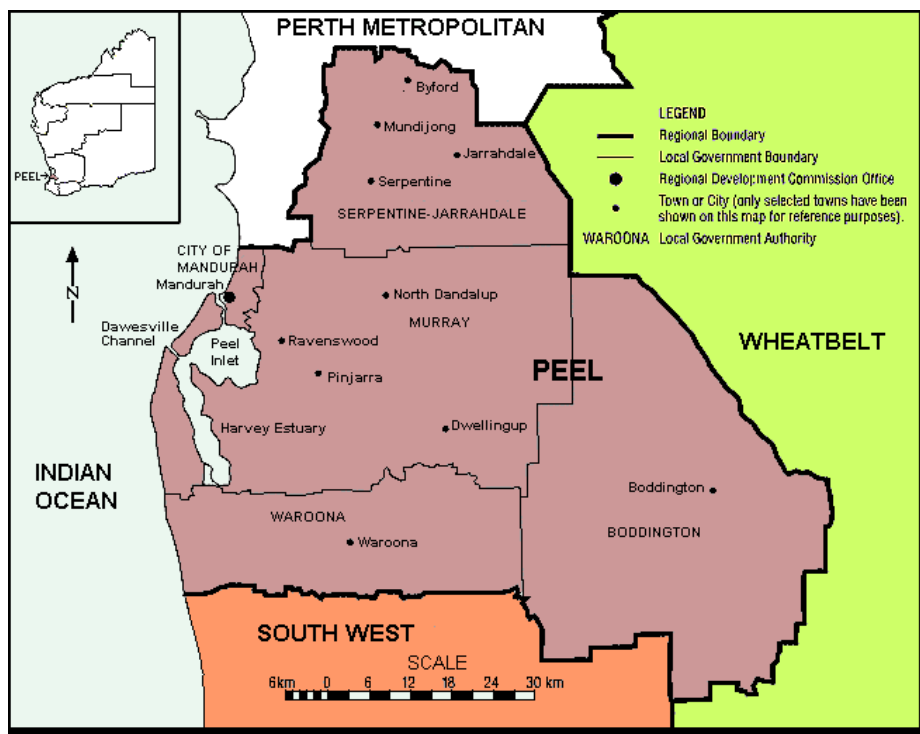


The Peel Region of Western Australia



The Peel Region is located immediately south of Perth. It is bordered by the Indian Ocean in the west, with jarrah forests and farmlands of the Darling Range leading east to the bordering Wheatbelt Region. The Region covers an area of 5,648 square kilometres, including 137 square kilometres of inland waterways and five local government areas: the City of Mandurah and the Shires of Boddington, Murray, Serpentine Jarrahdale and Waroona.

In line with State Government requirements, Peel Development Commission's annual report is published in an electronic format, with limited use of graphics and illustrations to help minimise download times. It can be downloaded at www.peel.wa.gov.au.

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STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The Hon Brendon Grylls MLA
Minister for Regional Development

In accordance with Section 61 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*, we hereby submit for your information and presentation to Parliament, the Annual Report of the Peel Development Commission for the financial year ended 30 June 2009.

The Peel Development Commission was established under the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993*. In the performance of its functions, the Peel Development Commission complies with all relevant written laws including but not limited to:

- Regional Development Commissions Act 1993;
- Public Sector Management Act 1994;
- Financial Management Act 2006;

In the financial administration of the Peel Development Commission, we have complied with the requirements of the *Financial Management Act 2006* and every other relevant written law, and exercised controls which provide reasonable assurance that the receipt and expenditure of moneys and the acquisition and disposal of public property and incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render the particulars in this statement misleading or inaccurate.



Kim Horne
Chairman
1 September 2009



Maree De Lacey
Chief Executive Officer
1 September 2009

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Peel Development Commission was established by the State Government in 1993 under the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993*. The Commission is one of nine regional development commissions each governed by the same legislation.

Peel Development Commission reports to the Minister for Regional Development; Lands the Hon Brendon Grylls MLA. The Commission facilitates and coordinates regional strategic planning and the delivery of infrastructure and services to meet the needs of the Peel Region now and into the future. The Commission provides the regional link between government policy and planning and Regional aspirations and needs.

The Peel Development Commission's Strategic Plan was reviewed in 2008 and a new Strategic Plan 2009-2014 was completed, setting the strategic direction for the Commission's activities. The Strategic Plan incorporates five outcomes: Government decision-making takes account of Peel issues; The Peel has an evolving, adaptive and diverse economy with increased jobs; Community and economic infrastructure is planned and delivered to meet the needs of current and future generations of Peel; Peel communities are educated, productive, healthy, safe and supportive; the Peel environment is better understood and managed.

The five outcomes are aligned to the goal of regional development in the State Government's strategic framework.

The Commission's detailed report against Overall Effectiveness Indicators is on page 66. There was a slight decrease in the main effectiveness indicator as measured through a client survey but overall the Commission's performance, as measured by the annual customer satisfaction survey, remains very high. It is pleasing to note that almost all outcome areas recorded an increase in customer satisfaction, already from a high base. The Commission's efficiency indicators (measured in average cost per service hour) were lower than the target but were consistent with those of previous years.

The Commission increased FTE by 1 in 2008-09, funded from Royalties for Regions for delivery of the strategic priority project, a revised economic development strategy which will be developed simultaneously with the delivery of key economic development projects.

The Commission's Report on Operations from page 17 details the project outcomes for the Peel Development Commission in 2008-09.

Among other results detailed in the Report on Operations, in 2008-09 the Commission led the penultimate year of two major projects. The first was the \$9 million Boddington Gold Social Infrastructure project and the second was the \$2.64 million Pinjarra-Brunswick Sustainability project. The Boddington project has seen infrastructure delivered for the communities of Boddington, Murray and Wandering including light industrial land, main street upgrades, improvements to roads; and planning for the Pinjarra bypass, a medical centre and a childcare centre. Among the achievements of the Pinjarra Brunswick Sustainability project this year were: the opening of the Peel Farmers' Market; the coordination of the Peel Tourism Exchange that brought 20 tourism wholesalers into Peel and showcased the marketing of four new tourism packages that were developed through the project; and enabling 46 regional people to obtain further qualifications through increased access to Recognition of Prior Learning.

The most significant change for Commissions this year was the introduction of the Royalties for Regions program, with \$4.4million allocated to each commission for regional services, infrastructure and headworks, along with a major policy focus on local decision-making, capacity building and assisting regional communities to prosper. A detailed report on Royalties for Regions is provided from page 22.

The 'Disclosures and Legal Compliance' section, from page 36, demonstrates that the Commission complied with all legislation and policy requirements. From April 2009 the Office of Shared Services began providing financial, procurement and human resources services to the Peel Development Commission. The Commission reviewed all internal policies in 2008-09 and made significant improvements in areas of financial controls, procurement and contract management.

While the Peel Region has not been immune from the global financial downturn, its strong industrial base, along with the Commission's focus on delivering long term benefits through the projects it supports, has given it a strong foundation for further growth and development.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2008-09 has seen unprecedented reform of regional development in Western Australia through the introduction of the Royalties for Regions program.

For the Peel Development Commission and the Peel Region, the results were immediate.

In the first round of the \$3.5 million Royalties for Regions Peel Regional Grants Scheme, 26 projects were funded in Peel with a total project value of nearly \$27 million. This means a project value of around \$7.50 was leveraged for every \$1.00 in Royalties for Regions funds. Equally importantly, the approved projects will create over 60 jobs in Peel.

In addition to the contestable grants, Royalties for Regions provided \$780 000 for social infrastructure in Boddington and surrounds this year. Newmont Boddington Gold has a target of 65% of their workforce living within a 50km radius of the US\$2.9 billion Boddington Gold Mine. One of the Commission's highest priorities is to support the Shires of Boddington, Murray and Wandering to build strong sustainable communities in those areas. The Royalties for Regions funds were immediately used not only to start up the Shires' highest priorities, but to leverage Commonwealth Government funding applications totalling over \$10 million in Boddington.

The Peel Development Commission is mindful of the heightened level of responsibility that comes with the Royalties for Regions program. Before implementing the program the Commission obtained independent audits of internal funds management and governance arrangements and strengthened every aspect of the grants assessment and management processes. The Commission has also been a partner in the development of consistent approaches across the State.

The importance of our leadership in the negotiation of the Peel Region Priorities was again demonstrated, with over \$420 million allocated so far by State and Commonwealth governments to the 2008-10 Priorities, including major community, road and utility infrastructure that is broadly supported by all stakeholders in the region, and will position the region to meet the long-term needs of its growing and diverse population.

The Peel Region, despite its many assets, was not immune to the global financial conditions of 2008-09. The Peel Development Commission's strengths include its ability to respond quickly to changing circumstances and to help others to do the same. In early 2009 the Commission organised a forum attended by over 120 people across the region's business sector that gave contemporary, accurate information about the crisis and its implications for the Peel from experts in industry and government. This practical, timely support for the region demonstrates the importance of local responsiveness in regional development.

2008-09 was an exciting year in the work of the Peel Development Commission and in regional development across the state. It has been a privilege to lead the Board of the Peel Development Commission into the new era. I thank my predecessor, Hon John Cowdell, for his wisdom and direction over the past three years. On behalf of the board I also thank the Minister for Regional Development, Hon Brendon Grylls, for his unwavering support for Peel Region and for regional development in Western Australia. Finally I would like to thank and congratulate the Chief Executive Officer and her staff for their outstanding efforts in pursuing the aims and goals of the commission and therefore the Peel community.



Kim Horne
Chairman

OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

Enabling Legislation

The Peel Development Commission was established by the State Government in 1993 under the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993*. The Commission is one of nine regional development commissions, each governed by the same legislation.

Responsible Minister

The Peel Development Commission reports to the Hon Brendon Grylls MLA, Minister for Regional Development; Lands. The Minister has the power to direct the Commission, either generally or with respect to a particular matter, on the exercise and performance of its powers, functions and duties under the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993*. The Commission must give effect to such directions.

Objects and Powers

Under the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993*, the objects of the Commission are to:

- Maximise job creation and improve career opportunities in the region;
- Develop and broaden the economic base of the region;
- Identify infrastructure services to promote economic and social development within the region;
- Provide information and advice to promote business development within the region;
- Seek to ensure that the general standard of government services and access to those services in the region is comparable to that which applies in the metropolitan area; and
- Generally take steps to encourage, promote, facilitate and monitor the economic development of the region.

For the purposes of achieving those objects, the Commission is to:

- Promote the region;
- Facilitate coordination between relevant statutory bodies and State government agencies;
- Cooperate with representatives of industry and commerce, employer and employee organisations, education and training institutions and other sections of the community within the region;
- Identify the opportunities for investment in the region and encourage that investment;
- Identify the infrastructure needs of the region, and encourage the provision of that infrastructure in the region; and
- Cooperate with departments of the Public Service of the State and the Commonwealth, and other agencies, instrumentalities and statutory bodies of the State and the Commonwealth, and local government authorities, in order to promote equitable delivery of services throughout the region.

THE COMMISSION'S BOARD

The Commission's Board of Management was established in 1994 upon proclamation of the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993*. The Board comprises the CEO and others not exceeding nine in number including the Chair and Deputy Chair. The Minister has authority to appoint Board members. Three members are appointed as community representatives, another three are nominated by Local Government and the other three appointed at the Minister's discretion.

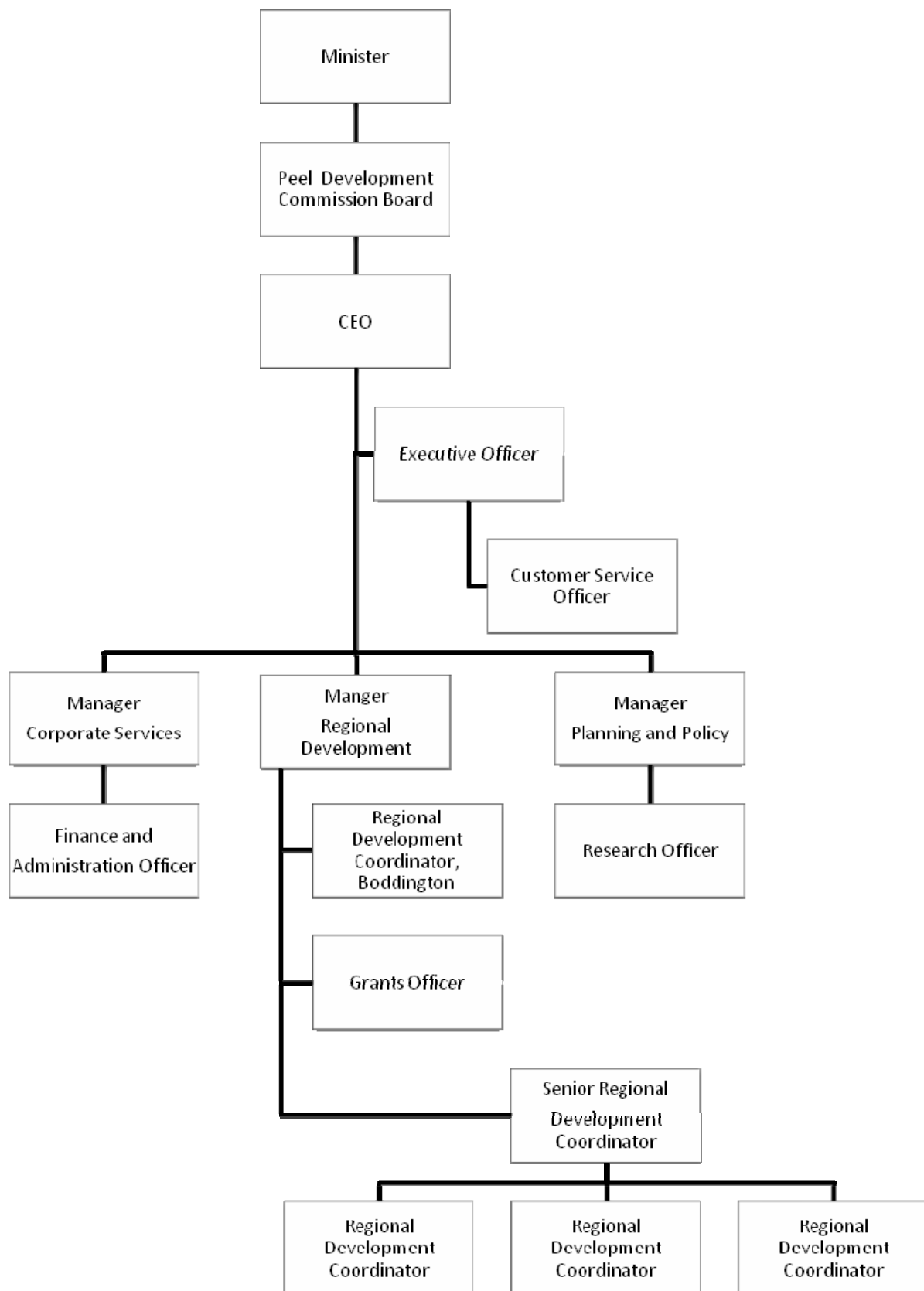
BOARD MEMBER	Meetings Attended
<p>MR KIM HORNE (Chair) <i>Ministerial</i></p> <p>Kim Horne has been with Alcoa for over 30 years and is currently Director Environment, Health & Safety and Human Resources for Australia. Prior to his appointment Mr Horne was Manager of Alcoa's Pinjarra Refinery which is one of the world's largest alumina refineries. He has been Manager of Mines for Western Australia and was responsible for Alcoa's bauxite mining operation and mine rehabilitation program. Mr Horne is also President of the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia and was the Chairman of the School of Fine Wood. Mr Horne is currently the Chairman of the Western Australian privately owned Logistics Company Mitchell Corp. Mr Horne has lived in the Peel Region for more than 40 years prior to a recent move to facilitate his new roles.</p>	4 of 7
<p>MS CHRISTINE GERMAIN (Deputy Chair) <i>Community</i></p> <p>Christine Germain is a long time Waroona resident and has served as a Councillor on the Shire of Waroona for 16 years. She has been actively involved in many community groups including Guides Australia, Waroona Tourist and Information Centre, Waroona Recreation and Aquatic Centre Advisory Committee, Waroona Elderly Citizens, Peel Trails Group, the Murray District Hospital Working Group, Chair of the Waroona Community Health and Resource Centre and LEMAC. Ms Germain is a Life Member of the Waroona Basketball Association and a member of St John Ambulance having been awarded with a 12-year service medal. She is also the Coordinator for Japanese Exchange Students when they visit the Region.</p>	7 of 7
<p>CR PAUL CARROTS <i>Local Government</i></p> <p>Paul Carrots has been a Councillor with the Shire of Boddington for 11 years and Deputy Shire President for 2 of those years. Cr Carrots was elected to the position of Shire President in 2007. He is heavily involved in the Boddington community, holding current memberships with the Boddington Sport and Community Club, Boddington Lions Club and the Boddington SES and Marradong Bush Fire Brigade. Cr Carrots is also a Justice of the Peace and a member of the Community Liaison Committee with Worsley Alumina Bauxite Mine. He also owns and operates two small businesses.</p>	5 of 7
<p>MS PADDI CREEVEY <i>Community</i></p> <p>Paddi Creevey has been Mayor of the City of Mandurah for over 3 years and Councillor for 14 years. She has a background in social work and community development. Ms Creevey had worked in the health field as a social worker for 30 years, 20 of those at Community Health in Mandurah. She has been involved in the development of a wide range of community organizations. Ms Creevey is Chair of the Governing Council of Challenger TAFE, Member of the Local Government Advisory Board, the Peel Inlet Management Council and the Peel Regional Planning Committee. She is also Chair of the WALGA Peel Zone.</p>	4 of 7
<p>MRS ELIZABETH HOEK <i>Ministerial</i></p> <p>Elizabeth Hoek is a long time resident of Boddington and is the Coordinator of the Boddington Old School Community Centre. She has been a Councillor with the Shire of Boddington since 1998 and is heavily involved in the community of Boddington and through various local and Regional committees. Mrs Hoek also owns a small business in Boddington.</p>	7 of 7
<p>PROF KATERYNA LONGLEY <i>Ministerial</i></p> <p>Kateryna Longley was Pro Vice Chancellor for Regional Development at Murdoch University incorporating the development of Murdoch's Regional campuses at Rockingham and Mandurah until her retirement in late 2005. She was also a Professor of English and Comparative Literature. Professor Longley has served on many committees and boards at a local, national and international level. Her local and regional involvement also includes the Peel Area Consultative Committee, the Mandurah Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee and the Kwinana Industries and Education Partnership. She is currently the Chair of the Cockburn Sound Management Council. In 2001 she was the Western Australian winner of the Telstra Business Woman of the Year and received an Australian Centenary medal for her contribution to business.</p>	4 of 7

CR NOEL NANCARROW	Local Government	3 of 7
Noel Nancarrow is a retired farmer and has been a Councillor for the Shire of Murray since 1989 and has held the position of Shire President since 1993. Cr Nancarrow represents the Shire of Murray on numerous committees, including the Peel Region Planning Committee. He is currently involved with the Murray Health Centre Working Group for the establishment of a new Health Centre in Pinjarra and also represents the Shire as Deputy Chairman of the Rail Heritage Foundation of WA in Pinjarra. He represents the Shire on the Peel Zone of the WA Local Government Association and also on the Rivers Regional Council. At the 2009 Local Government Convention he received a Distinguished Service Award.		
CR LARRY SCOTT	Local Government	2 of 4
Larry Scott, a Shire Councillor since 2007, is a retired pharmacist, property developer and long time resident of Waroona. Over the past 30 years Cr Scott has been very active in the Waroona community as a business proprietor, volunteer and member of many clubs and community groups.		
MR DAVID WADDELL	Community	7 of 7
David Waddell has been a resident of Mandurah for 7 years and has a background in senior corporate management, education and business development. Since moving to Mandurah, Mr Waddell has become actively involved in a range of organizations. In addition to his Board membership his local roles include Chair of the Halls Head Community Branch of the Bendigo Bank and member of the Peel Health Campus Community Advisory Committee. Mr Waddell has served on various subcommittees and has been able to bring both a community and business development focus to the Board. He has also chaired and facilitated a number of conferences, seminars and workshops related to significant aspects of the Peel Region.		
MS MAREE DE LACEY	Chief Executive Officer	6 of 7
Maree De Lacey has extensive experience at practitioner, senior and executive levels with non-Government, Commonwealth and State Government sectors. She has over 25 years experience in development of regional infrastructure and services through partnerships with government, business and the community. Ms De Lacey is a Board member of the Forest Heritage Centre, LandCorp and also a member of the Board of Governors of Fairbridge WA.		



*Top From left: Paul Carrots, Elizabeth Hoek, Kateryna Longley, Paddi Creevy, Larry Scott.
Bottom from left: Kim Horne, Maree De Lacey, Christine Germain
Absent: Noel Nancarrow and David Waddell*

COMMISSION'S STRUCTURE



PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Outcome Based Management Framework

The Peel Development Commission's previous Strategic Plan was reviewed in 2008 and a new *Strategic Plan 2009-2014* was completed, setting the strategic direction for the Commission's activities. The Strategic Plan incorporates five outcomes, listed below.

Our Vision

For Peel to be recognised as a uniquely beautiful and sustainable place to live, work and visit.

Our Mission

Develop and enhance the opportunities for the Peel people, economy and environment by providing strong leadership and engaging in effective and innovative partnerships to achieve the vision.

Our Outcomes

Government decision making takes account of Peel issues.

Peel Region's needs will be effectively represented in Government decision making

The Peel has an evolving, adaptive and diverse economy with increased job opportunities for all members of the community.

Peel's economy is strong, prosperous and diverse now and into the future

Community and economic infrastructure is planned and delivered to meet the needs of current and future generations of Peel.

The Peel's future population will be provided for by applying a coordinated approach to planning and the delivery of infrastructure

Peel communities are educated, productive, healthy, safe and supportive.

All communities in the Peel will have healthy, safe, enjoyable and supportive environments to live and work, with access to high quality education and local services. The community will be strengthened through providing the conditions that allow all to participate in the life of the region

The Peel environment is better understood and managed.

The Peel's natural environment will be responsibly managed to protect its diversity for current and future generations

Alignment with Government Goals

The Peel Development Commission's guiding framework is the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993* and the Government's strategic framework. Peel Development Commission's outcomes align with the Regional Development goal in the strategic framework.

Changes to Outcome Based Management Framework

The Peel Development Commission's outcome based management framework did not change during 2008-09.

Shared Responsibilities with other Agencies

The Peel Development Commission partners with other agencies in all of our work as highlighted in our project summaries in the Report on Operations section. The Commission's Resource Agreement between the Minister for Regional Development, the Chief Executive Officer, the Chairman and the Treasurer (2008-09) did not specify any major across-agency or whole-of-government responsibilities.

AGENCY PERFORMANCE – REPORT ON OPERATIONS

Financial Targets

Actual performance compared to Resource Agreement targets

Financial Targets	2009 Target 000 (1) \$	2009 Actual 000 \$	Variance 000 \$
Total Cost of services (expense limit) (sourced from Income Statement)	7,207	4,872 ¹	2,335
Net Cost of Services (sourced from Income Statement)	6,457	4,811	1,646
Total equity (sourced from Balance Sheet)	277	6,386 ²	6,109
Net Increase/Decrease in Cash Held (sourced from Cash Flow Statement)	(1,842)	6,114 ²	4,272
Approved full time equivalent (FTE) staff level	12	13	1

1) The variance between target and actuals is attributable to project funds committed but not spent in 08/09 including a small number of projects in the Boddington Gold Mine Social Infrastructure Package.

2) The variation between target and actuals is attributable to a combination of above and receipt of Royalties for Regions allocations in 2008-09, some of which were not expended in that year but all of which were committed to projects.

Effectiveness Indicators

Outcome: Development and Promotion of the Peel Region	2007-2008 Actual	2008-2009 Actual	2008-2009 Target
Client satisfaction with the contribution to the Region's economic base	85.8%	83.5%	90%

Efficiency Indicators

	2004-05 (a)	2005-06 (a)	2006-07 (a)	2007-08 (a)	2008-09 (a)
1. Facilitation and coordination	\$83.12	\$82.92	\$49.54	\$82.05	\$74.73
2. Information and advice	\$83.96	\$88.78	\$53.44	\$45.58	\$45.67

(a) Operating cost information is sourced from the Income Statement.

	2006-07 Actual	2007-08 Actual	2008-09 Actual	2008-09 Target	Variance
1. Facilitation and coordination	\$50	\$82	\$75	\$312	\$237
2. Information and advice	\$53	\$46	\$46	\$93	\$47

The variation between the average cost per unit of service hour between 2008-09 Budget and 2008-09 Actual is due to the Commissions grants and subsidies expenditure being included in the calculation for the 2008-09 Budget. Grants and subsidies expenditure is excluded from this calculation for the Actual results for the current and prior years.

Outcome 1: Government decision making takes account of Peel issues.

The Peel Region's needs will be effectively represented in Government decision making.

The Peel Development Commission is the Regional link between State Government policy and our region's aspirations. We provide advice to all levels of government on the region's immediate and long-term needs. We coordinate whole-of-government responses and facilitate partnerships between government, industry and community, to meet those needs.

The Peel Development Commission, with our partners, has a strong track record of negotiating agreement on the region's highest strategic priorities across all sectors in the Peel, and leading collaboration on the delivery of these priorities.

The Commission leads the identification of the annual "Peel Region Priorities", bringing together the considered input of the Region's leaders in local and state government, environmental and community services peak bodies, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Chamber of Minerals and Energy, major non-government agencies and members of Parliament. The Peel Region Priorities are those that can be demonstrated to contribute the most to the overall development of the region, and are consistent with the longer-term aspirations of the Peel 2020 Sustainability Strategy. To be included as priorities they must be well-planned and able to start immediately if funding is secured.

The process for identification of and agreement on priorities is a robust one, resulting in an annual set of priorities agreed broadly by all stakeholders across the region.

In 2007, for the first time, the Commission led the development of priorities over a two-year time frame, 2008-2010, recognising the importance of having a longer term position that could more effectively inform government priorities through State and Commonwealth elections.

Over \$420 million has already been allocated by State and Commonwealth governments to the 2008-10 Priorities including:

- Mandurah Entrance Road;
- Waste water and water supply projects;
- Completion of the new Perth Bunbury Highway;
- Construction of the Greenlands Road connecting the new Perth Bunbury Highway to South West Highway (part of the Pinjarra Southern Bypass);
- Mandurah CBD Redevelopment; and
- Community infrastructure for the Shires of Boddington, Murray and Wandering to meet the needs of a growing population as a result of the recommissioning of the Boddington Gold Mine.



The Regional Priorities are available from the Commission's website at www.peel.wa.gov.au.

In 2008-09 the Peel Development Commission was a leader in coordinating and providing advice to the government on a range of major issues including the policy framework and guidelines for Royalties for Regions, defining the relationship between the Commonwealth and State governments in regional development, and advising on statewide regional priorities through membership of the Regional Development Council.

HIGHLIGHT: ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS

2008-09 was the first year for the highly successful Royalties for Regions Regional Grants Scheme. In its first round, the \$3.5 million contestable grants scheme saw 73 applications to the Peel Development Commission, requesting over \$11.7 million for a total project value over \$40 million.

From the many excellent proposals, funds were approved to 26 projects with a total project value of nearly \$27 million, demonstrating the importance of Royalties for Regions in leveraging additional funds into the region.

One of the major funding recipients, Fairbridge WA, immediately used their approved grant to gain approval for over \$600 000 from another funder and to strengthen major funding applications elsewhere. Upon completion of Stage 7 of

Fairbridge's redevelopment, 22.5 jobs will be available and their highly successful training and employment programs for Indigenous people will be expanded.

In total the approved projects will create over 60 jobs in Peel.

A list of successful applications is on page 21.

In addition to the contestable funds, Royalties for Regions provided \$780 000 for social infrastructure in Boddington and surrounds. This will support the Shires of Boddington and Murray to maximise the community benefit from the US\$2.9 billion Newmont Boddington Gold expansion. The funds were immediately used not only to start up the Shires' highest priorities, but to leverage Commonwealth Government funding applications totalling over \$10 million in Boddington.

Peel Development Commission recognised the responsibility that accompanies such a significant policy and funding change. Before implementing the Regional Grants Scheme the Commission engaged an independent auditor to assess all grants management processes and procedures, and implemented all subsequent recommendations. The Commission also obtained external expertise to assist with the financial components of the business cases in all applications. All corporate services policies have been reviewed, and training has been provided to all staff in governance, project management and grant management.

2008-09 was the final year of the Peel Regional Development Scheme. This scheme provided \$534,000 to assist 26 projects with a total value of \$2.2 million during the year of review, within the priority areas of employment creation; education and training; caring for the environment; social initiatives; and infrastructure. Since its inception in 2001 the Peel Regional Development Scheme contributed funding to 244 projects across the region with a total project value of \$33.8 million.

How our community told us we did in this outcome area:

Outcome	2008 Client Satisfaction	2009 Client Satisfaction
Enhanced Government decision-making based on a thorough understanding of regional issues.	80.1%	81.2%
Effective Government service delivery to the region that is responsive to the needs of diverse communities.	72.8%	75.0%

Royalties for Regions: 2008-09 Regional Grants Scheme

APPLICANT	PROJECT	FUNDING 2008-09	FUNDING 2009-10	FUNDING 2010-11
Fairbridge WA	Fairbridge Village Redevelopment Program Stage 7	\$600,000	\$720,180	\$500,000
Forest Heritage Centre	FHC Redevelopment & Expansion Project	\$504,000	-	-
City of Mandurah	Rushton Park Sporting Facilities	\$450,000	-	-
Pinjarra Harness Racing Club Inc	New Pavilion for Patron Usage	\$395,000	\$350,000	-
City of Mandurah	Ocean Road Active Reserve & Recycled Wastewater Scheme	\$305,000	-	-
Midway Community Care	Community Access Centre	\$250,000	-	-
LandCorp	Nambeelup Baseline Investigations	\$150,000	-	-
Shire of Boddington	Boddington Retirement Village Development	\$136,000	-	-
Shire of Murray	Cantwell Park Universal Access Playspace	\$100,000	-	-
Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale	Byford Community Hub & Centre for Family Support	\$100,000	-	-
Pat Thomas Memorial Community House Inc	Collocated Outreach Offices	\$90,000	-	-
Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale	Mundijong Changerooms & Multi Purpose Community Facility	\$90,000	-	-
Shire of Boddington	Swimming Pool Heating & Services	\$58,270	-	-
Department of Agriculture & Food	Identification of Precinct Sites for Agrifood Processing Plant	\$50,000	-	-
Peel Community Development Group	Bindjareb Trail - Stage 1 & 2	\$37,555	-	-
Port Bouvard Pistol & Small Bore Rifle Club Inc	Clubhouse Building	\$35,260	-	-
Boddington Old School Inc	Community Integration New & Old Residents	\$30,000	-	-
Quambie Park Waroona Inc	Quambie Park Landscape Enhancement	\$27,250	-	-
Employment Law Centre of WA	Community Legal Education, Training & Further Assistance for Regions	\$19,115	\$20,995	-
Southern Region Leadership Inc	Assisting Peel Communities to become supportive community leaders	\$19,000	-	-
Waroona Playgroup Inc	Waroona Playgroup Outdoor Toddler Patio	\$11,250	-	-
Mandurah Senior College Auspicing Peel Education & Training Campus Board	PET Campus: To the Future	\$10,000	-	-
Mandurah Youth Commitment Inc	Eyes on Tomorrow Engagement Program	\$10,000	-	-
Shire of Waroona	Hamel Eco-Historic Precinct Wetland Trail Project	\$9,800	-	-
Event Assist	Waroona Events Tourism Initiative 2009-2011	\$7,500	-	-
K9 Dog Rescue Group	K9 Business Plan	\$5,000	-	-

2008-09 Regional Development Scheme (Final Round)

APPLICANT	PROJECT	FUNDING
Shire of Murray	Develop a Community Facilities and Services Plan for the Shire	\$50,000
Shire of Murray	Undertake the Pinjarra Town Centre Growth Strategy	\$40,000
Peel Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc	Contribution to the tourism initiative HATS (Hotel and Tour Shuttle Bus)	\$35,000
Challenger TAFE	This new mentoring program 'Seniors Supporting Juniors' will assist students in learning and achieving trade qualifications	\$34,769
Peel Community Development Group	Regional Community Development Coordinator	\$30,000
Peel Farmers Market Inc	Contribution towards the Market Manager to establish and operate the Peel Farmers Market commencing December 2008.	\$25,000
Peel CLAG	New initiatives of the Peel Integrated Mosquito Management Plan	\$25,000
Allambee Counselling	Trauma Counselling for CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) women from war torn areas	\$24,282
Forest Heritage Centre	Commence works for the Educational Walk Trail and Interpretive Signage	\$20,000
Bluearth Institute	Contribution towards the Peel Partnership which will commence to roll out the Bluearth program into more schools within the Peel Region.	\$20,000
Shire of Murray	Prepare the Shire's Tourism Strategy with future direction, consideration of icons, visitor centres etc	\$20,000
Serpentine Jarrahdale Telecentre	Assist in a joint partnership with the Tourism Association and establish a Visitor Information Service	\$15,798
Waroona Bowling and Social Club Inc	Resurface bowling greens and provision of fencing to the area	\$15,000
Moorditj Foundation Pty Ltd	Assist Gnaala Kaarla Booja to undertake strategic planning and a site assessment of the 'Old Café' in Boddington	\$15,000
Peel Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc	Establish the new initiative 'PeelFest' Expo	\$15,000
Landcare SJ Inc	Host the 'Great Garden Series' in 2009	\$15,000
Boddington Old School Inc	Employ an administration trainee to assist with the daily running of the centre	\$13,000
Waroona District High School	Continue the successful Families and Schools Together program	\$12,595
Fairbridge WA Inc	Establish the business case for the Fairbridge Caravan Park	\$10,000
Boddington Old School Inc	Youth Art 'Restart' program	\$10,000
Festival of Youth Inc	Peel Career and Employment Expo and Road Show	\$9,000
Canoe Trail Friends of Mandurah and Pinjarra Inc	Print canoe trail guidelines for the region	\$8,985
Shire of Boddington	Boddington Youth Centre Assistant	\$8,000
Event Assist Inc	Two tourism initiatives/events for Waroona in 2009	\$5,000
City of Mandurah and Shire of Murray	Active Ageing project, phase 2, securing opportunities for seniors	\$27,500
City of Mandurah	Review and update the regional Sporting and Recreation Facilities Plan	\$30,000

Outcome 2: The Peel has an evolving, adaptive and diverse economy with increased job opportunities for all members of the community.

Peel's economy is strong, prosperous and diverse now and into the future

The Peel Development Commission works with all spheres of government, industry, and the community to ensure the Region has what it needs to enable a strong economy and job growth, now and in the long-term.

The Peel is Western Australia's third largest mineral producing region.

The global financial crisis has presented similar challenges for the Peel Region as for the rest of the world, despite its status as Western Australia's fastest growing region with one of the fastest growing regional economies. The region has particular vulnerability in such economic conditions, with an economy strongly dependent on minerals and construction, higher unemployment than the state average, a high retiree population, and a large number of fly-in-fly-out residents.

The Peel Development Commission's highest priorities include strengthening the region's economy and creating jobs. Our role includes facilitation of infrastructure and economic opportunities that will strengthen the Peel and support our major industries and small and medium businesses, and attract investment.

In March 2009 the Peel Development Commission coordinated a major seminar for small and medium businesses to give accurate information on the implications of the global financial crisis and to help business people to make the right decisions for their businesses. The industry forum "*Surviving to Thrive in Business – Economic Conditions in WA from a Peel-Harvey Perspective*" was attended by over 120 people from across the region's business sector. Presentations were provided by the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of WA, Alcoa, Boddington Gold Mine, Satterley Property Group, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of WA and Business Dynamics (a business development group). Feedback consistently indicated that the seminar was well-timed and useful for businesses managing in a period of uncertainty.

The Peel Development Commission's Capability Register is an on-line database of regional businesses that can provide services or products especially to major infrastructure and mining projects. The register is located on the Commission's website www.peel.wa.gov.au. In 2008-09 35 new businesses registered themselves. The register is regularly accessed by major industry and project proponents to obtain the contact details of Peel's businesses and help them to 'buy local' when sourcing supplies and products for major projects.

The Peel Development Commission continually explores new investment opportunities for the region, including regularly hosting delegations of potential investors from overseas. In October 2008 the Commission gave support to the City of Mandurah for a major delegation from Zhoushan in China. The Commission also encourages our region's businesses to grow into the export market, and facilitated a major forum with Austrade to provide information about potential export opportunities for our region's businesses.

The tourism sector is an important economic contributor to the Peel Region, with the potential to become stronger given the many unique and attractive features of the Peel including our easy access from the major metropolitan, interstate and overseas markets. In 2008-09 the Peel Development Commission facilitated the development of 4 new marketable tourism packages. As a component of the Pinjarra-Brunswick Sustainability Strategy, the Commission supported regional businesses to form partnerships to increase their market visibility and attractiveness, particularly to international and interstate visitors. The Commission also coordinated the Peel Tourism Exchange which brought 20 wholesalers into the Peel Region, giving our region's operators unique and valuable exposure to far bigger interstate and overseas markets.

SKILLED MIGRATION

The Commission continues to provide assessment, certification and support for skilled migration applications on behalf of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and the State Migration Centre.

The following table shows the activity undertaken by the Commission from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 compared to the previous year.

	2007-08	2008-09
Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme	44	57
Regional Temporary Business (Long Stay) 457	26	22

Skilled Independent Regional	118	35
General Visa Inquiries	418	452

HIGHLIGHT: THE PEEL FARMERS' MARKET

In 2007 funding of \$100,000 was provided by the Commission to appoint an Agribusiness Officer in Waroona to develop opportunities for farmers in the Peel and South West. This innovative program has been managed in partnership with the South West Development Commission, Department of Agriculture and Food and Harvey Water.

The purpose of the extension program was to identify opportunities for farmers in the Pinjarra-Brunswick Region that would assist with new high value food products, including marketing and improving or diversifying land use. The development of a Peel Farmers' Market was identified as a high value marketing opportunity for the Peel Region in light of its rapid land use change. The Peel Farmers' Market was officially opened on 6 December 2008 in Pinjarra.

Since then, the Market has operated every Saturday between 8am and 12pm. There are between 16 and 21 stalls on average with a range of products including organic meats, fruits and vegetables, marron, cut flowers, nursery plants, olive oils and some spectacular processed goods such as jams, chutneys and cheeses from across the region. Economic analysis shows that, on average, the markets are turning over \$24,000 per event and have regular repeat customers.



Funds of \$50,000 provided by the Commission through the 2008-09 Regional Development Scheme have allowed the Peel Farmers' Market Association to engage the services of a Market Manager to manage the day-to-day operations of the market and to increase both the profile and number of stall holders for the Peel Farmers' Market. The Association is currently showing a small margin of profit and it is envisaged that this will increase as the markets grow.

Working with the Peel Campus of Challenger TAFE, the Peel Farmers' Market provided workplace training for two trainee Baristas for 10 weeks. This has resulted in the Farmers' Market employing one of the trainees as a Barista. The Farmers' Market plans to continue to build a strong relationship with Challenger TAFE to provide further work experience opportunities.

Additionally, the Peel Farmers' Market has provided a venue to link the Peel Region's community groups to the local community to help promote and raise funds for their individual causes. A free stall is provided to community groups to run the Market's sausage sizzle with all proceeds going to the groups. To date the Market has provided this service to following: Coolup CWA; Pinjarra/Waroona Youthcare; Pinjarra Primary School P&C; Pinjarra Scouts; Mandurah Wildlife Rescue; Mandurah Water Rescue; Relay for Life; Mandurah Senior College; and the Australian Cystinosis Support Group.

How our community told us we did in this outcome area:

Outcome	2008 Client Satisfaction	2009 Client Satisfaction
A diversified regional economy	68.8%	73.2%
Enhanced regional investment	73.4%	78.2%

Outcome 3: Community and economic infrastructure is planned and delivered to meet the needs of current and future generations of Peel.

The Peel's future population will be provided for by applying a coordinated approach to planning and the delivery of infrastructure.

The Peel Development Commission works with all levels of government, industry and the community, to ensure the long-term needs of this rapidly-growing and diverse region are recognised, planned for and delivered. We work across sectors to leverage funding and to support coordinated planning and infrastructure delivery.

The Peel Development Commission facilitates the provision of well-planned community infrastructure, taking into account the immediate and long-term needs of the region's people wherever they live.

Industrial land remains one of the highest infrastructure priorities. The Peel Development Commission leads the coordination of all relevant agencies to address this need. As one of the priorities, LandCorp has released Stage 1 of Pinjarra Industrial Estate, comprising 24 lots, ranging in size from 0.2 to 1 hectare. This estate helps meet the immediate need for general and light industrial land. The Commission, with the Shire of Murray and LandCorp, assisted anchor tenant Murray Engineering to relocate from outside Peel to the Pinjarra Industrial Estate, bringing the opportunity for over 50 new jobs.

The Commission also coordinates agency collaboration for the development of Nambelup Estate to meet medium to long term needs.

In 2008-09 Royalties for Regions funding was provided to LandCorp to undertake baseline soil, water quality and wetland investigations. The Commission is also supporting the planning and development of smaller industrial estates in Boddington, Serpentine Jarrahdale and Waroona. In the latter half of 2009 the Shire of Boddington will release for sale its first light industrial subdivision (currently subdivided into six lots, totalling 2.7 hectares). The catalyst for this subdivision was Newmont Boddington Gold Mine recommissioning, with the development of the subdivision being financially supported (by \$1.2 million) through the State Government's Boddington Social Infrastructure Package, administered by the Commission.

The Peel Development Commission provided \$1 million in funds to the Shire of Waroona for the Waroona Town Centre Redevelopment, which has seen completion of the Drakesbrook Place vehicle and pedestrian access, the Drakesbrook Place amenities, and stage 2 of underground power. The final stages of this major redevelopment will be complete in 2009.

HIGHLIGHT: BODDINGTON COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

One of the Peel Development Commission's highest infrastructure priorities is the Newmont Boddington Gold community infrastructure project. The Commission leads the project and facilitates the provision of community infrastructure to meet the needs of the growing population in Boddington and surrounds, created by the recommissioning of the US\$2.9 billion Boddington Gold Mine.

The population of Boddington is projected to double over the next 5 years as a result of the re-opening of the Newmont Boddington Gold Mine, Australia's largest open cut gold mine. This will include workers from the mine and their families and other businesses and essential workers who will support them. Newmont Boddington Gold has a target of 65% of its workers living in the 50km radius of the Mine, which includes Boddington and parts of Murray and Wandering Shires. These three Shires offer diverse and stunning country living options.



Boddington

A Golden Opportunity

www.agoldenopportunity.com.au

The Boddington Gold Mine starts operation in 2009 with an estimated operational workforce of 650. It will contribute \$550 million/year to the Peel regional economy and \$770 million/year to the Western Australian state economy.

Additionally, the BHP Billiton Worsley Alumina Expansion is estimated to cost \$1 billion with an increase in output from 3.5 to 4.6 million tons of bauxite. The mine is located in Boddington and its life is estimated to be 49 years with employment peaking at 500 by the end of 2009. 60% of the construction workforce lives within 100 kilometres of the mine.

State government agencies have committed \$37 million to community infrastructure including electricity upgrades, road works and hospital upgrades in Boddington. The Commission has coordinated State agencies' planning, with school upgrades, health and other services being met by the relevant agencies.

During 2008-09 the Commission administered State funding of \$9 million for planning and infrastructure for the Shires of Boddington, Murray and Wandering including light industrial land, main street upgrades, improvements to roads, planning for the Pinjarra by-pass, a medical centre and a childcare centre.

In addition, the Royalties for Regions funding contributed \$780 000 in 2009 for further infrastructure priorities including a road train turnaround as part of the main street upgrades and the design for a recreation facility. These funds were also used to help leverage funding applications worth over \$10 million with the Commonwealth Government.

One of the Commission's priorities is to ensure that there is sufficient diverse housing in Boddington and surrounds to support Newmont Boddington Gold's incentives for workers to live locally. The Commission has worked extensively with all spheres of government, the private and not-for-profit sectors and developers, both locally and throughout WA, to explore options for flexible housing and to encourage development of housing for rental and purchase. At 30 June 2009, 39 titled residentially zoned lots were available in Boddington. An additional 59 residential lots are expected to have titles by the end of 2009. The Commission is working with a range of partners to increase the availability of affordable housing stock to buy or rent. Negotiations with developers, the Commonwealth Government and the not-for-profit sector will, if successful, result in up to 600 houses being constructed over the next 10 years in addition to those that will come onto the market through normal turnover.

How our community told us we did in this outcome area:

Outcome	2008 Client Satisfaction	2009 Client Satisfaction
Improved regional infrastructure	73.0%	75.4%

Outcome 4: Peel communities are educated, productive, healthy, safe and supportive.

All communities in the Peel will have healthy, safe, enjoyable and supportive environments to live and work, with access to high quality education and local services. The community will be strengthened through providing the conditions that allow all to participate in the life of the Region.

The Peel Development Commission works with all levels of government, industry and the community to plan for, and facilitate the development of community services and infrastructure that will meet the diverse needs of our rapidly-growing population into the future. Ensuring access to lifelong education options is a major focus.

The Peel Development Commission is committed to overcoming Peel's issues of high unemployment and industry skills shortages. A major focus of the Commission is working with partners to identify and address both of these issues for the long term.

One of the Commission's priorities is to ensure that our region's people, wherever they live in the region, can access training that leads to sustainable jobs. Not only does this support our target of reducing unemployment, but it supports a well-trained workforce for our industry and business sectors. The Commission, through funding to Challenger TAFE, has seen 46 regional people obtain further qualifications through increased access to Recognition of Prior Learning. In addition, funding from the Commission has assisted Challenger TAFE to deliver a program to 12 schools in the region that gives young people experience in various trades before deciding on their career paths.

The Peel Development Commission, through funding to the Small Business Centre Peel, has given 25 regional businesses access to one-on-one assistance with business assessment and planning to improve their competitiveness for major tenders. A target of 40 businesses receiving this assistance will be met by the end of 2009.

The Peel Community Foundation, supported by the Peel Development Commission, was launched in September 2008. The Peel Community Foundation operates under the WA Community Foundation Inc (WACF) as its trustee. In 2008-09 Alcoa Australia's Pinjarra Refinery matched the State Government's \$100,000 funding and other funds and support were received from Community First International and George Weston Foods. The first round of community grants were made, heralding the start of a major opportunity for anyone to make a contribution to the Peel Region that will last in perpetuity. Information about the Peel Community Foundation can be found at www.wacf.org.au

The Peel Community Development Group (PCDG) is a peak body providing regional leadership in identifying and responding to community social needs. The PCDG was established in 2001 and is an independent not-for-profit organisation hosted by the Peel Development Commission. It works to support and strengthen a sustainable community sector in the Peel Region.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Peel Development Commission leads the implementation of the Peel Workforce Development Strategy in partnership with representatives from the Department of Education and Training and Challenger TAFE. The strategy, the first of its kind in WA, positions the region into the future to meet the changing workforce needs.

A larger stakeholder group, comprising representatives from each of the local governments, Department of Sport and Recreation, Tourism WA, Peel Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Small Business Centre Peel, has taken responsibility for the broader implementation of the strategy. The aim of the strategy is to reduce the unemployment rate within the Peel to that of the WA state average, over a ten year period (2006 – 2016). This will be achieved by:

- Maximising employment and training opportunities for the people of the Peel;
- Minimising the occurrence of skills shortages;
- Building community support for local industry;
- Building individual and community capacity to access training/employment opportunities; and
- Contributing to local, State and Commonwealth government decisions about spending in the region.

This initiative has already enjoyed significant success, with 27 of the 44 identified action items already completed or becoming part of the various stakeholders and government departments' ongoing operations. Some of these achievements include Mandurah Youth Commitment hosting an annual employment Expo for young people, Challenger TAFE providing increased training opportunities such as delivering the Diploma of Builders Registration and a combined nursing/aged care qualification in partnership with Murdoch University, and the Peel Development Commission developing a Housing Affordability Strategy for the region. The Peel Workforce Development Strategy and the Peel Development Commission have been the catalyst in driving these initiatives to ensure the Peel Region is well positioned to capitalise on the large economic growth expected in the future.

HIGHLIGHT: LOCAL JOBS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

As part of the \$2.6 million Pinjarra Brunswick Sustainability Strategy the Peel Development Commission provided \$330,000 funding over a three year period to Challenger TAFE to provide training, skills recognition and support to local people and businesses. This program was designed to address the skills shortage in the Peel and to ensure local people have access to training that will help them to gain sustainable jobs.

Challenger TAFE conducted an extensive assessment of the training needs of employers and employees throughout the Peel, to determine what labour and/or skill shortages the region may be experiencing and which local residents and workers would benefit from formal recognition of their existing skills or further skills training. In 2008 this program:

- Conducted pre-apprentice welding training at Boddington District High School for ten students. Seven students have gained apprenticeships with Newmont and elsewhere;
- Facilitated the Waroona Youth Leadership which has produced a number of successful outcomes for participants. Two students are in the New Opportunities for Women (NOW) course running at Waroona as they were able to put their leadership learning into practice. One student gained sufficient credits from the Leadership course to assist with entry into a desired university program;
- Provided training for twenty Indigenous students from the Boddington area for the Wider Opportunities for Work, including a Certificate I in Hospitality (kitchen operations). Four people were employed by Sodexho, a food and catering business servicing the Newmont Boddington Gold Mine, and another gained a traineeship. The remainder moved into other forms of employment or training in the region; and
- Assisted 46 local people to obtain TAFE qualifications through Recognition of Prior Learning. This spanned 35 qualifications and a total of 18,878 Student Curriculum Hours.



This highly successful program is working to ensure that residents of the Peel Region have access to training and employment opportunities and that the region is well positioned for the future.

How our community told us we did in this outcome area:

Outcome	2008 Client Satisfaction	2009 Client Satisfaction
Lifelong learning in the region	75.7%	81.0%
Enhanced quality of regional lifestyles	76.3%	79.4%
Safe and cohesive regional communities	66.3%	76.0%

Outcome 5: The Peel environment is better understood and managed.

The Peel's natural environment will be responsibly managed to protect its diversity for current and future generations.

The Peel Development Commission works with all sectors to promote the region's beautiful environment and iconic waterways and to coordinate efforts to protect these significant community, economic and environmental assets.

The Peel Region has the unique asset of 137 kilometres of inland waterways, one of our most recognised features and a recognised iconic asset across Australia. The Peel community has been clear in surveys conducted by the Commission that the health of the environment, and particularly the waterways, is one of their highest priorities.

The Peel Development Commission recognises the importance of our waterways as an economic, community and environmental treasure, and is a major partner in several key strategies to ensure they remain healthy for future generations.

The Peel Development Commission was a partner in the development of the Peel-Harvey Water Quality Improvement Plan which was released in 2008-09. The Commission undertook the Water Sensitive Urban Design Project which provided a regional policy approach for guiding best practice in residential development that protects the waterways and catchment. By 2008-09 four out of Peel's five local government authorities had adopted the policy within their local planning frameworks.

The Peel Development Commission is a partner in an initiative of the Peel Harvey Catchment Council with the Commonwealth Government's Department of Climate Change - the Peel Climate Change Adaptation Project. The project is building local government capacity in the Peel Region to adapt to the predicted impacts of climate change through the development of regional climate change policies for two priority themes – biodiversity and emergency management.

How our community told us we did in this outcome area:

Outcome	2008 Client Satisfaction	2009 Client Satisfaction
Conserved and restored natural and built heritage	67.0%	75.8%
Improved environmental management	72.4%	79.4%

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AND TRENDS

Peel is the third largest mineral producing region in Western Australia, with its value of production accounting for 7% of State output. In 2008 the Shires of Boddington, Murray and Waroona provided feedstock for Western Australia's total output of alumina, valued at \$4.9 billion. In 2008, the region's alumina output accounted for 20% of the world's alumina production. The region's alumina output increased 1% to 12.25mt in calendar year 2008. This represents a 4.18% increase in the value of alumina amounting to a record \$4.9 billion¹. The State Government also collected royalties valued at \$78 million from the production of alumina.

The \$2.9 billion Newmont Boddington Gold Mine starts operating in 2009 and will be Australia's largest open cut mine.

Despite the global financial crisis, the regional economy remains strong. Peel is the fourth largest regional economy in Western Australia and the third fastest growing.

Much of the Peel's economic activity is driven by mining developments and population growth, with the main industry sectors being mining, construction, manufacturing, other services and retail. Together, these make up 72% of the Gross Regional Product.

The Region has a number of significant major projects underway with a capital expenditure exceeding \$6.5 billion, generating over 1 000 jobs. These projects include the Boddington Gold Mine, BHPB Worsley, the Kwinana Freeway Extension (Forrest Highway), the Sebel Hotel, Fairbridge Village and the Mandurah Entrance Road.

Like many regions, Peel's small and medium businesses are a big part of the regional economy, and the Commission has a strong focus on ensuring the conditions for their continued growth are in place. In 2008-09 there were 1122 new business registrations in the region; a reduction of 2.1% on the previous year. This represents the region's first negative growth over the past five year period. The rate of the slowdown is small compared to that of the State which experienced a 40% reduction in new business registrations during the same period. The most popular industry sectors for new businesses in the region were retailing; personal services; cleaning services; health services; hairdressing and beauty salons; business services; business administrative services; landscaping and gardening services.

The Peel Region continues to have the fastest growing population in regional WA, and this is reflected in the Peel Development Commission's proactive approach to planning for the long-term service and infrastructure needs. From 1998 to 2008, Peel's average annual population growth rate was 3.6%, compared to 1.8% for the State and 1.6% for Regional Western Australia. The region's population is estimated to grow to 128,757 by 2015 representing an average annual growth of 3.9%, more than double the State's estimated growth of 1.5%. The population projection for the five years from 2015 to 2020 reflects an average annual growth of 2.9% which although slightly lower than in previous years, remains higher than the State's estimated growth of 1.3%.

There is some misperception about our age distribution, with the Peel traditionally having a high older population. However, our younger population is growing in number. 19% of the Region's population is aged between 0 - 14 years, compared to 19.7% for the State. 62.5% of the population is aged between 15 – 64 years (68.4% state). The Region has a higher proportion of people aged over 65 years than the State figures, accounting for 18.2% and 11.9% of the population respectively.

One of the Commission's main focuses is the creation of local jobs for local people, at the same time supporting our business and industry sectors to grow. The gap in unemployment levels in Peel and the rest of the State has narrowed in recent years but unemployment remains higher than the State average at 4%, slightly above the regional WA rate of 3.6% and state rate of 3.0%.

Tourism is an important contributor to the region's economy. In 2008 a new luxury hotel opened on the waterfront in Mandurah and another luxury hotel is planned for Port Bouvard. In the year ending December 2008 the region experienced a reduction in both intrastate and international visitors of 12.5% and 8% respectively. However interstate visitors increased 115% to an estimated 43,000. This is in contrast to the State which experienced a 10.1% reduction in interstate visitors. Overall, the total visitors to the Region fell by 5.7% compared to the State which experienced an 8% reduction.

¹ www.dmp.wa.gov.au/1525.aspx#1597