



media statement

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Growing population highlights need for a strategic vision for WA

Statement by CCI Chief Executive, James Pearson.

Predictions that WA's population will grow by 750,000 people by 2026 makes the case to create a long term strategy to meet the growing needs of a booming population stronger than ever.

In CCI's 2012-13 pre-budget submission to the State Government, CCI recommends the development of an over-arching document that brings together WA's energy, water, economic and social infrastructure, as well as the workforce needs of the State.

Planning for the rapid growth of the WA population won't be easy. However, as with any business, long term planning is essential.

We need to plan for the future infrastructure needs of the State. A rapidly growing population will place additional pressure on housing, roads, health services and communities facilities - to name just a few.

A long term infrastructure strategy would look beyond the short term political cycle by providing a framework to determine what projects should be a priority, in what order they should be built and what benefit they will bring to the State.

The strategy would benefit the business community by providing a clear direction about future opportunities in the State, as well as the role that private investment can play.

There are already several important existing long term planning documents like *Skilling WA* and *Directions 2031 and Beyond*. What is missing is a single, well co-ordinated approach to planning for the future of the State.

CCI calls on the Government and the Opposition to commit to a whole-of-government strategic document, and de-politicise the planning and development of WA.

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