

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Attention: News Editor

### **Blueprint for a strong region**

Seven major initiatives that will build the Great Southern over the next 25 years are revealed in the recently-released draft version of the Great Southern Regional Blueprint.

The Regional Blueprint was produced by the GSDC, with a mandate from the WA State Government, as a long-term plan for the Great Southern's future out to 2040.

Public comment on the draft is open until 5pm on Friday 31 October.

GSDC Chairman Peter Rundle said the Blueprint was based on a great deal of research and consultation.

"Stakeholders from businesses, community groups, not-for-profit organisations and all tiers of government were involved throughout the process," Mr Rundle said.

"The result is an aspirational plan that sets short, medium and long-term ambitions for the region, to fulfil a vision of making the Great Southern an internationally recognised region of choice for opportunity and lifestyle."

Mr Rundle said the Blueprint presented an extensive analysis of the current state of the region and also surveyed the major global trends that are expected to affect the region over the next few decades.

"Putting the main characteristics of the region against these big trends, we see seven key project areas that offer real prospects of building up the Great Southern," Mr Rundle said.

"These initiatives have the potential to transform the region. They cover the essential areas of energy, water, transport and community building, and also identify significant opportunities in digital technologies, tourism and food production.

"I encourage people to take a look at the Blueprint through the GSDC website, at a local library or at a Community Resource Centre in the region, and use the comment procedures to tell us what you think," Mr Rundle said.



*Building partnerships for regional prosperity*

Mr Rundle emphasised that the Blueprint was a strategic guide for investment from all sectors of the economy.

It would inform investment decisions by the public sector, private sector, community groups and not-for-profit organisations.

More information is available in documents on the GSDC website at [www.gsdc.wa.gov.au](http://www.gsdc.wa.gov.au): the brief Blueprint Snapshot, a more detailed Blueprint Overview and the full version of the Great Southern Regional Blueprint.

Inspection copies of the Blueprint are available at public libraries and Community Resource Centres in the Great Southern.

People wishing to comment are encouraged to read the full version. Comments can be made online, by email or by post.

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