



Shire of
Katanning
heart of the great southern



Foreword

Katanning is entering an exciting growth phase. As one of a network of nine SuperTowns, it has been identified to play a key role in the future development of regional Western Australia.

The State's population is set to double over the next 40 years to almost 4.5 million people. We want to ensure regional areas can accommodate some of this population growth to ease pressure on metropolitan Perth and create strong, vibrant regional communities.

The Regional Centres Development Plan (SuperTowns) is a Royalties for Regions flagship initiative aimed at encouraging regional communities in the southern half of Western Australia to plan and prepare for growth.

Through Royalties for Regions, 25 per cent of the State's mining and onshore petroleum royalties is being returned to regional areas each year as an additional investment in projects, infrastructure and community services to build regional communities. Royalties for Regions has delivered more than 3,000 projects and programs since the program commenced in late 2008.

As part of this broader focus on regional development, SuperTowns aims to help communities become more desirable places to live, work and invest. The program encourages towns to build on their unique character and economic drivers to support the development of industry, services and infrastructure.

Nine towns – Boddington, Collie, Esperance, Jurien Bay, Katanning, Manjimup, Margaret River, Morawa and Northam – were identified as strategically located towns with the potential for significant growth. Each SuperTown was required to prepare a Growth Plan, which now set out a shared vision and a format around which all sectors and levels of government can work together to support and prepare for growth.

Growth Plans reflect the extensive work undertaken by key SuperTown partners including the Shire of Katanning, Great Southern Development Commission and state agencies, in consultation with local and neighbouring communities. The Growth Plan is vital in identifying the needs of the community and addressing current barriers to growth.

The completion of the SuperTowns Growth Plans marks a key milestone for regional development in WA.

I encourage businesses, families and individuals to take advantage of the opportunities SuperTowns offer and look forward to a bright future of growth for Katanning.

Hon Colin Barnett MLA
Premier

Hon Brendon Grylls MLA
Minister for Regional Development; Lands

The Shire of Katanning, the Great Southern Development Commission and the community and consultants have worked hard since the Regional Centres Development Plan (SuperTowns) initiative was announced by the State Government in July 2011. This has presented a valuable opportunity for Katanning to demonstrate growth and crystallise a vision where over the next 30 years Katanning will be the Central and Upper Great Southern's regionally significant multicultural, inclusive and friendly SuperTown where people want to live and are proud to call home.

Katanning has a wealth of multicultural and indigenous activity in the area highlighted by our annual Harmony Festival and can look proudly at the strong local multicultural and indigenous populations to establish population growth and unique economic and tourism opportunities. Katanning's Multi-Cultural mix and acceptance of anyone willing to have a go has made for a diverse and vibrant community which can only grow as it continues to integrate new migrants.

Katanning's Growth and Implementation Plan will help us achieve this vision it will be Council's key strategic document which will outline key focus themes that are significant to the growth of Katanning into a major regional centre and indeed a 'SuperTown'.

The Growth Plan takes into consideration the consultations with stakeholders and the Community and it was particularly rewarding to see so many residents participate in that process. This culminated in a clear vision for Katanning's future and the implementation plan which will draw upon the visioning document.

The Growth Plan is a detailed document addressing numerous opportunities for us as a community along with addressing many underlying social, economic and environmental issues to achieve a 'SuperTown', incorporating increased economic diversity, supporting and expanding existing industry, amenity and infrastructure. Projects need to be delivery focused with outcomes and benefits that reflect the community's vision for the area and enable stakeholders to coordinate their plans and programs with our vision.

The Growth and Implementation Plan also focuses on improving the community in which we live in, this includes providing more facilities and amenities, introducing new multicultural initiatives, supporting community groups and not-for profit organisations and ensuring all the needs of members of the community are continually addressed to a satisfactory level. Community is the cornerstone of any place and is one of the key foundations to building an attractive SuperTown.

Creating this Growth Plan would not have been possible without the commitment and vision of those participating in the Community Reference Group, the SuperTowns Project Team, and the consultants lead by TME. The Great Southern Development Commission and LandCorp were heavily involved with the planning process and community forums and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community members, stakeholders and Shire staff along with the consultants involved in developing this Growth Plan.

It is also acknowledged and greatly appreciated that funding through Royalties for Regions and the Department of Regional Development and Lands has made this possible.

I am looking forward to continuing to work with our stakeholders, partners and the community in achieving our vision for Katanning and I believe this document is critical to ensure we achieve our vision.

Richard Kowald – Shire President