





## **TOWN OF EAST FREMANTLE**

The Municipality of East Fremantle was created in 1897, when it separated from the Town of Fremantle to become an independent local authority. The Town has a population of approximately 6,500 and is 3.2 square kilometres in area. It is bounded to the north and west by the Swan River, across which many properties enjoy expansive views. To the east it shares a common boundary with the City of Melville, to the south and west with the City of Fremantle. It is a few kilometres from the centre of Fremantle and other major retail areas and is well served by public transport.

The Town has a rich history. The local Aboriginal tribe known as Nyungar obtained food and drinking water from the river edges and open grassy areas. The track that linked the fledgling Swan River Colony based in Fremantle to the future city centre of Perth in 1831 is documented traversing along the East Fremantle cliff edge finishing at the river ferry crossing at Preston Point. Early settlement of the area consisted of large farm holdings, however as the colony prospered during the 1890s gold rush the nature of settlement altered dramatically, rapidly changing to a residential area.

The Plympton precinct today consists of charming worker's cottages which were established largely between 1890 and 1910. The annual East Fremantle Festival is held in historic George Street, the main street of Plympton. Riverside was established by the merchant elite of Fremantle and is perched high on the cliffs overlooking the River. Gracious homes of the goldrush era are dotted along the escarpment. Further northwards, the Preston Point area was developed in the 1950s with houses typical of the period also enjoying the expansive views over the river.

The Woodside and Richmond precincts contain many homes dating from 1900–1940. Described as 'sweetness and light' this area is characterised by its fine brick and tile bungalows on generous (quarter acre block or similar) sites with mature garden settings.

The Town of East Fremantle has strongly resisted the push for infill development and encouraged the retention of the many heritage homes, gardens and streetscapes in the municipality. Whilst pressure from various sources to increase densities may ultimately prevail, in East Fremantle the community and families currently enjoy the standard of amenity of their forebears, with space for children to play and a sense of history and community unparalleled elsewhere.

## *The Town At A Glance*

### **THE TOWN AT A GLANCE**

Established as a municipality:	2 April 1897
Population:	6,697 (2006 Bureau of Statistics)
Number of dwellings:	3,090
Number of rate assessments:	3,430
Area:	3.2km <sup>2</sup>
Area of parks & gardens:	65ha
Location:	25km from Perth GPO
Length of roads:	40km
Annual Operating Expenditure:	\$6,512,424
Rate revenue:	\$4,116,936
Employees:	46
Principal Officers (during the period 2007/08)	
Chief Executive Officer	Stuart Wearne
Executive Manager Finance & Admin	John Roberts
Town Planner	Chris Warrener
Environmental Health Officer	Shelley Cocks
Operations Manager	Pat Garrity
Office location:	135 Canning Highway East Fremantle
Telephone:	(08) 9339 9339
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**Annual Report 2007/2008**

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*Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2008*

## Mayor & Councillors

### Mayor & Councillors

(as at 30 June 2008)

#### Mayor:

2007-2011

Mayor Alan **Ferris**  
1 Polo Way  
East Fremantle WA 6158  
mayor.ferris@eastfremantle.wa.gov.au  
**9339 0595**

#### Councillors:

##### *Plympton Ward*

2005-2009

Cr Stefanie **Dobro**  
90 King Street  
East Fremantle WA 6158  
cr.dobro@eastfremantle.wa.gov.au  
**9339 8775**

2007-2011

Cr Dave **Arnold**  
88 Hubble Street  
East Fremantle WA 6158  
cr.arnold@eastfremantle.wa.gov.au  
**9319 1044**

##### *Woodside Ward*

2005-2009

Cr Dean **Nardi**  
120 Marmion Street  
East Fremantle WA 6158  
cr.nardi@eastfremantle.wa.gov.au  
**9339 5632**

2007-2011

Cr Maria **Rico**  
11 Petra Street  
East Fremantle WA 6158  
**9339 4413**

##### *Richmond Ward*

2005-2009

Cr Richard **Olson**  
4/46 Alexandra Road  
East Fremantle WA 6158  
cr.olson@eastfremantle.wa.gov.au  
**9339 6681**

2007-2011

Cr Cliff **Collinson**  
48 King Street  
East Fremantle WA 6158  
**9339 6452**

##### *Preston Point Ward*

2005-2009

Cr Alex **Wilson**  
46 Locke Crescent  
East Fremantle WA 6158  
cr.wilson@eastfremantle.wa.gov.au  
**9339 1156**

2007-2011

Cr Barry **de Jong**  
4 Chauncy Street  
East Fremantle WA 6158  
cr.dejong@eastfremantle.wa.gov.au  
**9438 1516**

## Mayor's Report

I have great pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for 2007-2008. It has again been a busy year for the Town with a number of significant achievements being accomplished.

The year has also seen some major changes to the Council following the Council Elections in October 2007. The election saw the Mayor James O'Neill and Councillor Dave Martin both finish their respective stints on Council. Councillor Harrington also resigned during the year.

The Town welcomed back Maria Rico as a sitting Councillor and new Councillors in Cliff Collinson, Dave Arnold, Barry de Jong and Dean Nardi.

All the new Councillors have settled in and are making a significant contribution to the Town.

This year saw the release of the WALGA long term sustainability report "The Journey: Sustainability into the Future" for public consultation.

Also the adoption in June 2008 of a Strategic Plan for the Town for the period 2008-2012.

### FINANCE

The Town has continued with its financial plan to eliminate all current debt by 2015. In 2007-2008 all of the infrastructure works were funded from grants or from within Council's own resources.

For the 2007-08 financial year, the Town budget included the allocation of over \$1.7 million towards infrastructure works for the benefit of the community. Some of the major projects completed included:

- George Street drainage and roadworks
- Marmion & Moss Street intersection traffic management works
- completion of fitout of Dovenby House with the exception of the landscaping
- upgrade of facilities at John Tonkin Park

The following budgeted works have been carried forward due to shortage of staff/contractors:

- upgrade of facilities at Lee Park
- Pier Street limestone protection works
- foreshore erosion works
- footpath construction
- cycleway improvement works
- kerbing replacement works

I would like to thank Mr Roberts and his team who have worked hard over the year to deliver a quality financial service to the Town

### SPORTING CLUBS

The Town has continued to support all our sporting clubs and maintain the reserves to a high standard to ensure that residents can participate in many sporting activities.

This year saw the release of the Master Plan for the East Fremantle Oval Precinct for public comment. This plan was commissioned with funding from the Department of Sport and Recreation, the WA Football Commission and the Town. The draft plan is currently being considered by Council.

The Town recognises the efforts of all of its sporting clubs for their contribution to the social fabric of our Town. All have hard working committees who volunteer to ensure that these clubs are vibrant and sustainable. These clubs provide significant community benefit to the residents of the Town and the Town will continue to support these important community assets.

This year also saw the return of Premier League Soccer to the Town, with Fremantle Spirit playing at the East Fremantle Tricolore Soccer ground. It is hoped that this can continue beyond this year.

We do need to find a balance in maintaining our reserves and protecting our river as many of our reserves are in close proximity to the river.

## Mayor's Report

### **RECYCLING AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

As Mayor I have represented Council on the South Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC). This is a significant partnership for the Town and I have worked with the other regional councillors in ensuring that the facility in Canning Vale is well managed and effective in the delivery of waste and recycling services.

SMRC continues to be a leader in its field and in 2007 won the Commonwealth Greenhouse Challenge Plus award for outstanding achievement in greenhouse gas abatement by government and essential services.

I thank the residents for continuing to support the Town and its commitment to recycling waste management.

### **TOWN PLANNING**

The Town continues to fine tune our new scheme. This year Council decided to do further work on our Draft Heritage List and Residential Guidelines. This reflects our commitment to protect our built heritage and also ensure that new developments and restoration works complement this.

I would also like to recognise the efforts of Cr Stefanie Dobro as Presiding Member of the Town Planning (Private Domain) Committee, Councillors Rico, Olson, Wilson and de Jong and the planning staff, Mr Chris Warrener and Ms Peta Cooper. Town planning is always a difficult job but all staff and councillors have worked hard and diligently. Additionally I would like to acknowledge Council's Principal Building Surveyor, Mr Paul Busby.

### **GLYDE-IN, HACC AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

The Glyde-In continues to thrive. I would like to take this opportunity to again thank Ann Reeves and the committee for the significant contribution to our Town.

Ms Sue Limbert and her helpers continue their fine work in Home and Community Care

(HACC). As Mayor I am proud of Sue and her team's work and their ability to address the needs of our elderly residents.

Mr Noel Nimmo and his volunteers continue their excellent work in Neighbourhood Watch. Few people are aware of Noel and his volunteers, yet these unsung people continue to protect both our safety and property. On behalf of the Town thank you.

A big thank you to Mr Pat Garrity and the gardens/works teams for their efforts throughout the year.

I would like to recognise the work of our Principal Environmental Health Officer, Shelley Cocks. Her workload included food premises and swimming pool inspections, noise and air pollution monitoring, recycling and implementing the Cities for Climate Protection Program. Shelley is also the liaison officer for the Sumpton Green facility provided by Council that accommodates the East Fremantle Play Group and Child Health Clinic.

Our rangers and in particular, Andrew Driver, provide more than just the normal ranger services. Not only do they investigate such things as dog attacks and ensure compliance with parking regulations, they have been involved in the recovery of stolen vehicles and the apprehension of offenders who are then placed into police custody. Their diligence and commitment to our Town makes East Fremantle a safer place for all of us.

Recognition also to Mr Stuart Wearne and Ms Janine May for their dedication and commitment to our Town.

Thank you to:

- Deputy Mayor Stefanie Dobro for her support and ability to take over in my absence.
- Councillors Alex Wilson, Richard Olson, Cliff Collinson Dean Nardi, Maria Rico,

## *Mayor's Report*

Dave Arnold and Barry de Jong for their hard work and commitment to the Town of East Fremantle.

Lastly, again thank you all for the great privilege to serve you as your Mayor. I have really enjoyed my first year as Mayor and have particularly enjoyed meeting more members of the community and getting involved in more issues.

I am always keen to meet and get your input into the direction of the Town and will continue to work with the community in protecting our built and social heritage.

***Alan Ferris***  
***Mayor***



# Chief Executive Officer's Report

## INTRODUCTION

In 2007-2008 Council continued to provide good governance and improved Council services and facilities.

The more noteworthy outcomes are reflected in the reports from the Departmental heads, which I commend to you.

This report deals mainly with the most critical issues are challenges which the Town considered during the 2007-2008 financial year, including issues involving the local government sector in general, both at a State and Federal level.

## ISSUES

### Financial reform in local government

I have written on this matter in previous annual reports. In the last report I referred to the findings of the earlier Federal "Fair Share" inquiry into local government financing and cost shifting, which concluded there was an Australia wide financial sustainability crisis in the local government sector and recommended significant improvements in regard to local government financing.

The "Fair Share" Inquiry had found the infrastructure backlog alone to be a time bomb for local governments across Australia.

In financial terms, the backlog of unmet but essential local government infrastructure works was estimated to be \$14.5 billion nationally, of which an estimated \$1.75 billion involved Western Australia.

Yet, I advised, as at 30 June 2007, little had changed following the report.

I noted that, historically, councils primarily provided essential services to properties such as access roads (hence many local governments commenced as Roads Boards), crossovers and rubbish collection.

Yet these days councils have taken on responsibility for a large array of other services including (in East Fremantle's case) recreational and sporting facilities, a library service, aged care services and facilities, a boat launching ramp, jetties and mooring pens, public car parks, health services, playgroups and other children's services, the promotion of physical activity, environmental services, noise control, Council housing, recycling and waste management services, community crime prevention, emergency management, animal welfare, adult learning centres (eg Glyde-In), arts (eg Royal George Arts & Community Centre), community events (eg East Fremantle Festival), river foreshore erosion control (including compliance with Native Title consultation requirements) and heritage protection.

Many of these responsibilities have been devolved onto local government by State and Federal agencies, with little or no financial or any other compensatory arrangements to assist local government in meeting these increased responsibilities.

Compounding the problem had been significant funding cuts in areas where financial support *is* received, such as Federal road grants, with this occurring against a background of significant increases in costs in other areas such as recycling and waste management.

Despite this dramatic increase in Council responsibilities, property rates generally continued to remain the principal source of revenue. Nationally, rates in local government have for many years increased by a lesser amount than Commonwealth taxation revenue. Despite this increase in Commonwealth taxation and Commonwealth grants to the States, Federal and State grants to local government have, in relative terms, declined whilst, as indicated, services shifted to local government have increased.

Hence I reported the time was well overdue for both State and Federal governments to

## Chief Executive Officer's Report

recognise the ever increasing role of the underfunded local government sector and the funding needed by the local government sector to carry out that role and remain viable. I also strongly suggested amalgamating financially unsustainable local governments was no solution, particularly with the alleged savings largely illusory, according to the most credible research. The only alternatives were for local government to either continue to increase rates to meet the costs of the additional services (at the risk of adverse public and press comment), and/or to increase other fees and charges, and/or to cut back on services, and/or to continue to defer adequately providing for its infrastructure backlog in matters such as drainage replacement, road and footpath resurfacing etc.

The Town thus maintains its call for local government to receive a guaranteed real terms share of Commonwealth tax revenues, equivalent to a minimum of 1% of Commonwealth general taxation revenue and paid directly by the Commonwealth.

Without a fairer taxation system local government cannot do what it does best – which is to serve the needs of its local community.

Yet it took the December 2007 Federal election for both sides of politics to finally get serious about the local government funding crisis and to drop the mantra that the simple solution was bigger and thus “more efficient” local governments.

Promises of local government reform from the major parties abounded during the election campaign.

Pleasingly, after the election, it didn't stop there.

Within the first 100 days of office, the new Labor Government undertook its first steps towards addressing the infrastructure backlog, by establishing an agency, Infrastructure

Australia, to coordinate infrastructure development across Australia, including overseeing a number of local government-related infrastructure programs.

Whilst still early days, this initiative was welcomed by the local government sector as a sign of recognition of the high priority this government intends to give to the infrastructure issue.

Further, in May 2008, the Rudd Government announced a major review of the nation's tax system, which will incorporate an assessment of local government taxation issues.

A discussion paper was due to be released at the end of July with a final report due to be issued by the end of 2009.

At the same time the Rudd Government announced a Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program, to begin operating in 2009/10, which would finance improvements to community, recreational and environmental infrastructure.

This was to be in addition to two new programs, Better Regions (which would provide \$176m over four years to regionally based local governments) and the Building Australia Fund, which will be used to fund critical economic infrastructure such as roads, rail, ports, water and energy infrastructure and broadband.

By June 30 2009, further developments with regard to the above initiatives were being foreshadowed, together with progress with regard to the long sought Constitutional recognition of local government, the achievement of which should also assist with the abovementioned financing and tax issues.

In the foreseeable future, the ability of local government to meet the needs of its communities will significantly depend on how the sector responds to this new and challenging agenda and its degree of success

## Chief Executive Officer's Report

in engaging with federal and state governments in this and related regards.

### **Skills Shortage**

Staff retention and difficulties in recruiting replacement staff where vacancies have occurred has become a serious issue for all local governments in the current resources boom driven economic climate. For the Town of East Fremantle there has been particularly significant problems in respect of retaining and recruiting "outside" staff, with Council operating with significant staff shortages for most of this financial year. Council has worked hard to retain existing staff and attract suitable new staff where vacancies occurred, however this has been a significant challenge, with "poaching" by other councils now widespread in the local government industry.

### **Town Hall/Old Police Station Restoration**

The estimated cost of fully restoring and refitting both of these State listed buildings is \$2-3 million. In terms of external funding, in the last several years Council has only managed to obtain a Lotterywest grant of \$30,000 towards these works. It is an indictment of the State's attitude to State heritage conservation that more funds are not available to assist local governments which seek to "do the right thing" by conserving their heritage buildings – which is not just for the benefit of their particular communities but also for the State as a whole.

It had been hoped it might be possible, through borrowings, to commence the restoration in 2007-08, assuming the necessary skilled tradespersons could be secured, which was always going to be a challenge, based on the current climate and noting significant difficulties in that regard with respect to the "Dovenby" restoration.

However a long running legal action which Council was involved in throughout this period, which potentially had significant adverse financial implications for the Council, led to a view that it would be financially

prudent to place this project (and in fact several other projects) on hold.

It is hoped however that at least the most urgent structural works can be carried out in the 2009/10 financial year.

### **Royal George Hotel Restoration**

This matter is primarily the responsibility of the National Trust, as the owners of the building. However Council views itself as being in partnership with the Trust and this project – also costed at \$2-\$3 million - is another major challenge, firstly in terms of how the project is to be funded without compromising the ultimate objective of community benefit and secondly in terms of avoiding compromising the heritage qualities of this heritage jewel and iconic East Fremantle landmark.

During the year Council considered a development concept, submitted by private developers, which entailed the construction of a multi storied apartment building on the north side of the Royal George (ie located in the existing car park).

Elected members were concerned at the height of the proposed development and its effect on the view of the Royal George particular from the north. In response the developers agreed to review their plans. By 30 June 2008 no new proposal had been received.

### **Dovenby**

Work commenced on the landscaping and irrigation of the surrounds of this magnificent heritage building – a former gatehouse of the Woodside estate which included the mansion which became Woodside Hospital. Council had earlier saved the building from demolition and after transporting the building from Allen Street to its current site had overseen a comprehensive restoration, with the assistance of significant grants from Lotterywest and the Health Department of WA which the CEO had successfully negotiated.

## Chief Executive Officer's Report

“Dovenby” operates as the administration centre of the Town’s Home & Community Care Program and is thus a valuable Council community asset, in addition to being a testament to Council’s aspirations and values with respect to conserving its local heritage properties and an example to other owners of heritage properties in the Town.

### **Municipal Heritage Inventory and Heritage List**

Planning continued on the process of implementing a revised Municipal Heritage Inventory and Heritage List, which will involve a greatly expanded number of entries on each list. The Municipal Inventory is a statutory requirement under the Heritage of WA Act and the Heritage List is provided for in Council’s Town Planning Scheme.

There were about 250 places listed on the Council’s first Municipal Inventory. Following a comprehensive review by two commissioned consultants, this list has now expanded to 1027 places, which can be broken down by Ward, as follows:

Plympton	407 properties
Woodside	326 properties
Richmond	207 properties
Preston Point	87 properties.

Council has adopted the principle of including all places listed on its Municipal Inventory on Council’s Heritage List. It is expected the consultation processes involved in implementing this decision will be completed by 30 June 2009.

These measures are designed to provide greater protection for heritage properties in the Town.

In fact, given Council’s responsibilities and the expectations of our community that Council will promote the conservation of East Fremantle’s heritage assets, Council will continue to do all it can to protect its heritage buildings and places and is also considering

possible Scheme amendments and new Local Planning Policies in this regard.

Council is confident, knowing how strongly the East Fremantle community values its local heritage, that there will be strong community acceptance of these measures.

### **Strategic Plan**

Council completed the development of a Strategic Plan which outlines Council’s focus and priorities for the next five years. Underpinning the plan is a vision of the place we all want East Fremantle to be, with a focus on East Fremantle’s built heritage and natural beauty, its lifestyle and the services and facilities which residents most need. The plan was developed in close consultation with the Town’s clubs and organisations, local schools and the community at large. The contribution made by all of those organisations and individuals was greatly appreciated.

### **East Fremantle Oval Precinct Master Plan**

Council commissioned this plan with the objective of determining the best possible land uses of the site (which is the area bounded by Marmion, Moss, Fletcher and Allen Streets). Whilst the instigating factor was financial issues concerning the impecunious East Fremantle Football Club, and the resulting long standing subsidy of the Club by Council, the situation provided a good opportunity to review the whole site in terms of improving existing facilities, establishing new facilities and improving the public amenity of the Precinct generally. Comprehensive community consultation was carried out in the course of the Master Plan process, which was still underway as at 30 June 2008.

### **Town Centre**

Together with many residents, Council would like a greatly improved Town Centre developed on the site of the existing ageing East Fremantle Shopping Centre, with the best possible public benefit. However Council is limited with respect to its influence

## Chief Executive Officer's Report

on achieving this goal as it is not Council land!

During this year extensive discussions took place with two separate developers regarding their respective redevelopment concepts, however in each case, for reasons which appeared associated with the developing global economic crisis, their plans did not proceed.

In due course however, further redevelopment plans are expected.

Meanwhile, at the urging of Council officers, the current major owners of the site have undertaken a range of maintenance and other improvement works, which has at least significantly helped improve the amenity of this area.

### **Traffic**

Within Council's budget and subject to priorities, Council always does what it can to improve traffic and pedestrian safety in the Town. During the year major works, which involved Black Spot funding, were completed in George Street and Marmion Street. Major works planned for Preston Point Road were deferred for operational reasons.

The CEO also had extensive discussions with the Office of Road Safety regarding an urban 40km/hour speed limit trial which was originally planned to involve all of East Fremantle and large areas of the Cities of Fremantle and Melville.

Unfortunately, the latter two local governments ultimately resolved to not participate in the trial. This meant that this particular plan could not proceed, however it is still hoped that in due course an alternative worthwhile trial can be implemented.

### **Safety & Crime**

Whilst crime is recognised as primarily a state government/police matter, Council does what it can to assist at a local level.

Council acknowledges and supports the wonderful and longstanding work of Noel Nimmo, Council's Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, and his team of volunteers.

Council also supports the work of the Community Policing Committee led by longstanding local government stalwart Laurie Humphries.

To further enhance these initiatives, the Town and the State Government have recently resolved to enter into an agreement, designed to enhance community safety and crime prevention in the Town, through a partnership involving the WA Police Service, other State Government agencies and the East Fremantle community.

### **Swan River Foreshore Erosion Works**

Council has carried out a large amount of these works over the past several years. Whilst the assistance of Swan River Trust funding has been appreciated, there is a growing issue for those local governments which are spending considerable sums in this regard, despite the Swan River and surrounding area being under the control of the Swan River Trust. Many of the walls now being repaired or restored were originally built by the State Government, yet with no discussion or any form of compensation, this responsibility has been passed to local government.

Notwithstanding the above, the Town greatly values the role and work of the Swan River Trust in protecting the river and its environs and have been involved in a number of cooperative ventures, most recently the installation of signs regarding the wilful vandalism of vegetation in the Swan River Trust Management Area.

### **Amalgamation and Regional Cooperation**

These important issues have been the subject of comprehensive comment in the CEO's previous Annual Reports. The Town remains pleased the former State Government kept its promise of no forced amalgamations and

## Chief Executive Officer's Report

continues to strongly believe amalgamations should only occur if it is the wish of the local community. Council remains appalled that the Local Government Advisory Board, a body appointed by the State Government to recommend on local government boundaries, in earlier recommending the amalgamation of the Town of East Fremantle with the City of Fremantle, specifically proposed that the East Fremantle community **not** be consulted and suggested this be achieved via amendments to existing State legislation which currently provides that such consultation must occur.

So much for principles of local democracy and community consultation!

The amalgamation was proposed despite the Town having been found to be well run and financially in very good shape, in this regard rated higher than most other local governments, including a number of local governments in the region. This remains the case.

The strength of the community's and Council's opposition to amalgamation is underpinned by a mutual understanding that it is the very size of the Council which is integral to the issue of the cohesiveness and connectiveness of the East Fremantle community.

Most notably the size ensures elected members are able to be in close touch with the aspirations and concerns of local residents and organisations, in a way which is generally simply not manageable with larger councils. The community has a genuine chance to be heard. Council is thus in a position to more accurately and effectively respond to its citizens' aspirations and concerns.

Regrettably the proponents of amalgamation consistently fail to recognise the importance of this aspect.

The fact the former government, with particular support from Jim McGinty,

quickly rejected the Advisory Board's recommendations, is again acknowledged.

Meanwhile, work on local government reform with respect to the systemic financial sustainability of the local government sector throughout the State, which had commenced four years earlier, continued.

This process was led by the local government peak body, WALGA and culminated in a major report: "The Journey : Sustainability Into the Future – Shaping the future of local government in Western Australia".

The key finding of the Report was that 83 of the State's 144 councils were financially unsustainable in the long term (East Fremantle was not one of them) and there were widespread problems with service delivery and capability.

Key elements of the proposed solution were as follows:

- 10 year plan (which, in reality, may take much longer to achieve).
- A model, which local governments, *on a voluntary basis and dependent on their individual situations*, could access, whereby service delivery was offered on a regional basis, in order to achieve advantages of economies of scale, whilst maintaining appropriate political representation at the local level.
- Where utilised, some of the roles of individual local governments would be transferred to the regional body, which would also help address the skills shortages issue.
- The regional body would also carry out agreed Federal/State Government services on a fee for service basis.
- The report did not propose amalgamations of councils. (This was a critically different outcome, when compared with every similar enquiry held in Australia in recent years and showed the difference when an

## Chief Executive Officer's Report

evidence based approach to evaluating local government finances, was carried out.)

- Councils need to have 10 year financial plans in order to start addressing major infrastructure spending over that period.
- The following service delivery options:
  - shared services.
  - voluntary regional organisation of councils (such as the South West Group)
  - regional local governments
  - area integration or joint models
  - bigger local governments, through boundary changes or amalgamations, although to be on voluntary basis only.
- Establishment of a Local Government Independent Assistance Commission to assist local governments with assessing their sustainability, improving their financial planning and asset management, improve cost recovery of fees and charges and assist with the implementation of community infrastructure planning.
- Mandatory training of elected members
- Necessary legislative amendments.

The Town supported the Report (whilst, by 30 June 2008, the Report was still being debated in the local government sector, it has now been adopted as the primary process of local government reform over the next 10 years).

In particular the Town was pleased that not only did WALGA once again come out in support of no forced amalgamations, they were supported in this by both sides of politics, including in the course of the ensuing State election through relevant policy statements.

Further, in terms of the Report's promotion of resource sharing, the Town has long been a supporter of this principle. For example there

is a joint East Fremantle/Fremantle Library, joint local emergency management arrangements, joint arrangements with respect to engineering and design works, aged care services, graffiti removal etc.

Further, Council is also a strong supporter of regional cooperation arrangements, most notably through the South West Group (incorporating East Fremantle, Fremantle, Melville, Cockburn, Kwinana and Rockingham) and the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council.

Council was the key instigator of the South West Group some 25 years ago and it has long been recognised, at both a State and national level, for its achievements and as a model of regional cooperation.

The South West Group is currently considering further regionally based resource sharing and regional cooperation arrangements and during the year all member Councils signed a Memorandum of Understanding in this regard.

Also in this regard, the South West Group has applied for funding from the Department of Local Government & Regional Development to research the development of a Shared Services model.

Both sides of politics need to be applauded for having supported a more considered approach to local government reform in WA, especially when compared with the knee jerk "solutions" imposed by the government in a number of other States.

It is now up to the local government sector to take up the opportunity of self reform which the State Government has offered and the implicit trust of the government that local governments have the necessary resolve and ability to carry out the reforms needed to achieve a much improved sustainability of the sector.

## Chief Executive Officer's Report

### Climate Change

Through the SMRC, Council is an active participant in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Abatement Program which has undertaken a number of initiatives, the most recent being the running of the Living Smart course (designed to teach participants how to save water and energy) and the Climate Actions project (advising businesses in how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions).

Whilst it could be argued that anything which Council can achieve in this area is almost irrelevant in terms of what needs to be achieved nationally and internationally to help reverse global warming, Council's view is that local government needs to lead by example, with that example role applying to both local residents and State and Federal governments.

### Physical Activity

Council continues to be active in promoting physical activity not only through its assistance to the extraordinary range of sports in the Town (given East Fremantle is such a small local government) which Council supports: croquet, bowls, football (WAFL and junior), senior and junior soccer, tennis, cricket (senior and junior), lacrosse, rowing and two yacht clubs. Council in the last year has also promoted walking and cycling in the Town, through the installation of new bench seating, bike racks, signs, development of new walking trails and the promotion of walking groups, in addition to website development promoting these activities.

Council also has a very active program of building and maintaining children's playgrounds eg John Tonkin Park, Ulrich Park, Stratford Street Park, Glasson Park and Sumpton Green visited by officers from other local governments, due to their innovative nature.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Firstly I wish to acknowledge the important role the various sporting clubs and

community organisations play in the Town. Council enjoys excellent relations with all of the clubs and community based organisations in the Town.

The clubs and organisations include the East Fremantle Yacht Club, Swan Yacht Club, East Fremantle Lawn Tennis Club, East Fremantle Football Club, East Fremantle Junior Football Club, East Fremantle Tricolore Soccer Club, East Fremantle Bowling Club, East Fremantle Croquet Club, Fremantle Rowing Club, East Fremantle Cricket Club, East Fremantle Lacrosse Club, 1<sup>st</sup> Fremantle Scout Group, 1<sup>st</sup> Leeuwin Scout Group, Neighbourhood Watch, Neighbourhood Link, East Fremantle Playgroup and Glyde-In.

However balancing this *provision* of a range of recreational, sporting and community facilities and events (such as the wonderful East Fremantle Festival) with the *cost* of operating and maintaining those facilities and services is not always easy. Council will continue to deal with any issues in a fair and equitable manner. Council recognises the significant benefit such clubs and organisations bring to the East Fremantle community and to the members involved and does all it can to help these clubs and organisations thrive.

I wish to acknowledge the support I have received from elected members in my role as CEO.

The East Fremantle community should feel very fortunate to have such an able and dedicated group at its helm.

Council's new Mayor Alan Ferris has embraced his role with much enthusiasm and has welded an extraordinarily harmonious and hardworking team which, it must be said, is the envy of a number of other, regrettably divided, local governments.

That team: Deputy Mayor Cr Stefanie Dobro, Cr Alex Wilson, Cr Richard Olson, Cr Maria



## *Chief Executive Officer's Report*

Rico, Cr Dave Arnold, Cr Barry de Jong, Cr Cliff Collinson and Cr Dean Nardi deserve to be applauded for their hard work, commitment, teamwork and vision over the past year.

Elected members are of course strongly backed up by Council's employees.

Given the skills shortage issue referred to earlier in this report and given the limited career paths and support staff which can occur with small local governments, I believe Council has done well to attract and retain the competent, multiskilled and loyal staff to the degree which it has.

As Chief Executive Officer, I am proud of what the staff have achieved this year and wish to thank John Roberts, Chris Warrener, Shelley Cocks, Pat Garrity, Sue Limbert and *all* of their respective staff for their loyal service, dedication, hard work and professionalism throughout the year.

As always, and as always deserved, a special thank you to my Personal Assistant, Ms Janine May. Janine has worked for the Town all her working life and is personally known to a large number of the Town's residents. Janine continues to exhibit the highest levels of commitment, loyalty and hard work and has given another year of outstanding professional service, often working beyond the call of duty yet always maintaining her wry sense of humour.

Janine, thank you once again.

Finally and most importantly, East Fremantle residents and ratepayers are thanked for their strong support of Council over the past year.

***STUART WEARNE***  
***Chief Executive Officer***

## Finance & Administration

*John Roberts, Executive Manager Finance & Administration*

The function of the Finance and Administration staff of the Town covers a broad range of activities including Council support, administrative services including Ranger Services, financial reporting, accounting, information technology (including the Town's website), rating, debt collection, asset management, records management, human resource management, creditor payments and payroll.

Its primary focus is on financial management and statutory compliance in terms of transparency and disclosure. To this end, the Town prepares a Plan for the Future of the district, an Annual Budget and audited Annual Financial Statements each year. During the year regular financial reporting assists the Council in its role of management of Council's financial and physical resources.

### **Financial Management**

#### ***Plan for the Future of the District***

In 2005, the Local Government Act was amended replacing the requirement for councils to prepare "Principal Activity Plans" with a "Plan for the Future of the District".

The Town of East Fremantle updated its Plan for the Future during 2008 to cover a ten year period from 2008 to 2017. The highlights of the Plan are as follows:

- elimination of all current debt by 2015;
- funding of future infrastructure works from Council's own resource funding;
- provision of a plant replacement program provided through annual cash reserve transfers from Council's own resource funding;
- annual funding allocations for:
  - roadworks
  - footpath improvements
  - kerbing replacement
  - drainage improvements.

A copy of the plan can be obtained from the Council's website or Administration Centre.

#### ***2007-2008 Annual Budget***

The Town of East Fremantle's 2007-2008 Budget was adopted at a Special Council meeting held on Tuesday 19 July 2007.

The 2007-2008 Budget provided for a number of significant items for the benefit of the community including:

- George St drainage & roadworks \$360,472
- Preston Point Road traffic management works \$440,793
- Marmion/Moss St intersection \$49,706
- Footpath works \$213,079
- Foreshore erosion \$30,000
- Pier Street limestone protection works \$50,000
- Completion of Dovenby House restoration \$45,712

The budget also provided for the mowing of Council's parks and ovals. Provision was made for three (3) general verge mows and four (4) arterial roads verge mows.

In addition to Council's waste management and recycling services, two (2) bulk rubbish and three (3) green waste annual collections continue to be provided.

Continued support provided for community services such as Glyde-In (\$57,000), Infant Health Clinic, Community Midwifery Program and Council's Home and Community Care services.

Council completed the restoration of the heritage property, "Dovenby House", situated at the rear of the Council Chambers. The restored building provides a superb facility for the administration of Council's Home and Community Care service "Neighbourhood Link", which assists many of the aged and disabled residents of the Town, as well as a meeting place for the carers, volunteers and staff associated with the service.

## Finance & Administration

It also serves as a tangible example of Council's strong commitment to the protection of the Town's heritage buildings and heritage areas.

Council budgeted for an overall rate income increase of 6% for residential and commercial rates.

### **Rating**

The Town of East Fremantle levied \$5.14m of rates in 2007/08 including the ESL. Of this \$5.03m was collected. \$98,800 was deferred under the Pensioner Deferred Rates scheme giving an effective collection rate of 99.8%. The Town continued its endeavour to provide excellent customer service in a cost effective manner by offering the much requested BPay payment option for the new year. Unfortunately due to a new pricing schedule offered by Australia Post the Town has reluctantly withdrawn the Australia Post over the counter payment option.

### **Annual Financial Statements**

The Annual Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2008 has been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and complies with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulations under that Act. The audit was conducted by Macri Partners and their Audit Report was presented to Council at its meeting held on the 21 October 2008. Copies of the Audited Financial Report are included in this document.

### Operating Statement

The Operating Statement shows a surplus of \$1,018,266,076 compared with budgeted surplus of \$421,823. The increase in the operating surplus was mainly attributed to additional budgeted income from rates, additional income from fines and penalties and a number of projects delayed to 2007/08.

### Consolidated Surplus

The consolidated surplus consists of Municipal and Reserve funds for the Town of East Fremantle. The Financial Position Statement for the year ended 30 June 2008 shows a surplus of \$2,202,546. This includes Restricted Cash and Reserves funds of some \$1,018,266 held by Council (see note 3 of the Annual Financial Report) for the future development of assets of the Town of East Fremantle.

### Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Financial Position

This statement provides for the assets, liabilities and equity for the Town of East Fremantle. The net equity increase from the 2006-2007 financial year Financial Position Statement to the 2007/08 year is represented by the operating surplus of \$1,018,266.

Council invests surplus funds in term deposits with banks, building societies and property trusts to provide a positive return on its investment. The interest received for the 2007/08 year was \$231,872 and included \$12,499 transferred to Council's Reserve Funds.

Council continues to monitor its debt service level and maintains a reduction debt strategy. Council budgeted to raise no new loans.

### Financial Ratios

In assessing the performance of the financial resources, Council statements include ratios which provide a comparison between the three financial years. This report details a comparison between the 2005/06 financial year, 2006/07 financial year and the 2007/08 financial year. The ratios include:-

	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06
<b>Current Ratio equals</b> Purpose: To assess adequacy of working capital and the ability to satisfy short term obligations. <i>The figures shows a decrease in the current equity which is mainly due to the reduction on the payments for Underground Power project.</i>	1.70	2.03	1.31
<b>Debt Ratio equals</b>	12.27%	12.92%	12.61%

## Finance & Administration

	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06
Purpose: To identify exposure to debts by measuring the proportion of assets funded by creditors. <i>The figures show a reduction in the debts outstanding which is mainly due to the Underground Power project loans outstanding.</i>			
<b>Debt Service Ratio equals</b> Purpose: To assess the degree to which revenues are committed to the repayment of debt. <i>The figures show a reduction in the amount of Loan repayments from income which is also mainly due to the Underground Power project loan repayments decrease ie Stage 1 repayments ended in 2001/02 financial year</i>	2.95%	3.43%	3.85%
<b>Rate Coverage Ratio equals</b> Purpose: To assess the degree of dependence upon revenue from rates <i>The figures show a decrease in the income received from rates</i>	62.96%	65.06%	62.11%
<b>Outstanding Rates Ratio equals</b> Purpose: To assess the impact of uncollected rates on liquidity and the adequacy of recovery efforts. <i>The figures show a reduction in outstanding rates and charges which have been levied</i>	2.62%	1.28%	0.87%

The Town of East Fremantle, through a request for expressions of interest, has reappointed Macri & Partners as its External Auditors for a period of 3 years.

### Records Management

The Town of East Fremantle has demonstrated its ongoing commitment to good and compliant record keeping practices by continuing to adhere to its Record Keeping Plan which was approved by the State Records Commission in September 2004.

As a component of the approval of the Town's Record Keeping Plan the Town was set a timeline by the State Records Office to become compliant with the *State Records Act 2000*. A part of the actions necessary to meet those requirements the Town adopted record keeping guidelines to assist elected members to manage the official records created or

received by them in the course of their work for the Town of East Fremantle.

All correspondence is registered in Council's electronic document management system records system (IT Vision Synergysoft) and stored electronically for distribution and archive purposes.

For the year ending 30 June 2008, 7,111 individual items of correspondence were recorded, scanned and processed through this system. This is an increase of 14.5% on last year.

To ensure Council's continued compliance with the *State Records Act* and procedures, Council is an active member of the Local Government Records Management Group which consists of member councils from the 144 councils within Western Australia. The group liaises with the State Records Office to ensure compliance and clarification of current issues.

## Town Planning/Public Domain

*Pat Garrity, Acting Operations Manager*

The 2007/08 financial year budget provided many opportunities for improvements to footpaths, roads, playgrounds and recreational facilities within the Town of East Fremantle. The following items were set to be undertaken to provide valued, improved and new infrastructure.

### ***Footpath Program***

The footpath resurfacing and reconstruction program was not fully undertaken due to the enormous increase in pricing from contractors. This increase effectively put our budget for scope of works well under the market value with the tenders received in the vicinity of \$300,000 and over, for works originally anticipated at \$175,000. Apart from some minor upgrades the works program has been carried forward into the 08/09 budget. The footpath works are scheduled to commence in September 2008, earlier if the weather permits.

### ***Pram Ramps***

28 pram ramps were upgraded along Canning Highway between Petra Street and Stirling Highway. The existing pram ramps were very old with a very steep grade that was not conducive to the present footpath standards. The replacement ramps have a longer grade allowing a safer more gentle transition from road to path for those in wheel chairs, motorised chairs and those pushing prams.

### ***Dovenby House***

The Dovenby House restoration has progressed this financial year with construction works completed on the building and only landscaping works to be carried out. The restoration of this building has been funded by the State Government Home and Community Care program, Lotterywest and Council. HACC now occupy the premises which house the Co-ordinators office and training centre. Unforeseen problems with the bore pump caused a delay in the landscaping however all systems are working and the Sir Walter Buffalo which is a soft leaf grass and

the most water wise of grasses has been planted around the perimeter. The installation of limestone garden edging has been completed with the last stage of planting to begin early October 2008.

### ***Traffic Management Marmion Street***

A traffic turning slip lane was installed on Marmion Street at the intersection of Moss Street. This was to allow traffic to sit safely in a holding lane while waiting to cross over into Moss Street. With the installation of the slip lane, traffic driving west along Marmion Street no longer have to deal with stationary vehicles in the travelling lane turning into Moss Street. These works are part of the ongoing commitment by Council to improving the safety of travel within the Town.

### ***John Tonkin Reserve Shade Sails***

The play equipment installed in the park has certain sections that are made from stainless steel, and through the summer months these are subject to the full extremities of the sun retaining the heat and at times making it unpleasant for those wishing to play on this amenity. The installation of six shade sails over the entire play area has added a colourful canopy while providing relief from the sun for both the play equipment and those using it.

### ***Drainage Upgrades***

Funding for this project was the subject of loan funds and Council has resolved to follow a financial plan that does not include the raising of loans for this type of work.

There is also still a significant amount of investigation and design that has been completed indicating key problematic areas in the Town. These have been implemented into the 2008/09 budget with a total of \$244,400 of upgrades to be undertaken namely to the Stratford Street catchment area and the Irwin Street catchment area. These areas have been identified as priority locations however further upgrades to the Stratford catchment will be needed to be undertaken in 2009/10 in order to alleviate the existing bottleneck in the

## Town Planning/Public Domain

pipeline. The outcome of these works will be to rectify an ever increasing problem to a drainage system that was never designed nor intended to deal with such a huge catchment area.

### ***George Street Upgrade***

This major project, undertaken by the Town to improve a number of key issues in George Street, has all but been completed, with only the installation of the traffic calming plateaus left uncompleted. Traffic counts have been taken now that the motorists have become accustomed to the changed road structure, with further traffic readings to be done if needed to help bring this project to closure.

### ***Drainage Works Jerrat Drive***

The five drainage pits along Jerrat Drive were of an outdated design which would clog up with debris causing the road to flood and overflow the kerb. Three of the pits are located directly above the East Fremantle Yacht Club and each time the road would flood, torrents of mud and debris would swathe a path down the bank into the car park and then into the river, at times to such an extent a front end loader would be used in the clean up. The installation of the new side entry pits appear to have rectified this problem with no reports of flooding.

### ***George Street Toilet***

The demolition of the toilet block has been completed. These works included the construction of a new hard standing area to which the profiling (asphalt) that we removed during the upgrade of Fortescue Street was utilised as a cost effective substitute to materials usually purchased. Two light poles were erected providing light for those using the nine car park bays in the evening hours. During the installation of power for the poles, an additional line was laid down to the entrance for the purpose of supplying power to the replacement car park sign.

The sign will be placed on top of a 4 metre pole at the boundary line of the adjoining property of 128 George Street, this will allow

it to be viewed when travelling in either direction along George Street, and this height will also deter vandals from breaking the globes.

### ***Riverside Road Mooring Pens***

Indianic Diving Services provide Council with a yearly scheduled maintenance program for its mooring pens. This is in addition to call out maintenance as many repairs need to be undertaken using water craft, as has been the case this year with the replacement of three buffer poles.

### ***East Fremantle Oval***

The Oval was verti-mowed to remove the thatching, then the goal squares and the centre square were excavated so new turf could be laid in time for the football season. The installation of vert drains into the main reticulation line feeding the Oval will allow the Oval to be fertilised via the gel tablets inside the tubes and as this is a new and environmentally friendly irrigation design, will be monitored come the warmer months.

## Health Services

### HEALTH SERVICES

*Shelley Cocks Principal Environmental Health Officer*

The role of Principal Environmental Health Officer at the Town of East Fremantle encompasses the enforcement of legislation including Health Act 1911 (as amended), Environmental Protection Act 1986 (as amended), Disability Services Act 1993, Emergency Management Act 2005, Tobacco Products Control Act 2006 and regulations made pursuant to those Acts; and Health Local Laws.

#### ***Food Premises & Food Surveillance***

A new Food Act 2008 was recently passed by the Western Australian Parliament, receiving Royal Assent on 8 July 2008. This Act regulates the sale of food in Western Australia to ensure that food is safe and is suitable for human consumption.

Food premises inspections are undertaken periodically to ensure hygiene standards and cleanliness in food handling areas are maintained.

During the period 1 June 30 2007 to 30 June 2008 a total of 30 routine food premises inspections were undertaken and Food safe audits of Pilgrim House and Braemar House were also completed.

Inspections of 10 club room kitchens were also undertaken as part of Councils commitment to its Building Maintenance Program.

#### ***Food Hygiene and Safety***

Invitations were sent to various food premises inviting participation in an accredited food Hygiene and Safety Course. This nationally recognized training for food handlers fulfils the skills and knowledge requirement of the Food Safety Standards. Topics includes an introduction to the Food Safety Standards, cross contamination, food storage and temperature control, personal hygiene,

cleaning and sanitation, reducing the risk of food poisoning and responsibilities of food handlers. It was pleasing to note that staff from the following food premises attended the course, and achieved a high standard of competency: Trade Winds Hotel, Left Bank Bar and Café, The Red Herring, Swan Yacht Club, East Fremantle Yacht Club, George Street Bistro, Pizza Palace and Dominoes Pizza.

#### ***Food Recalls***

A total of 21 food product recalls were recorded for 2007/8

Council's Principal Environmental Health Officer ensures all food recalls are brought to the attention of supermarkets and delis, and that foods are removed from sale, where required.

#### ***Food complaints***

A total of 4 food complaints were received in 2007/8:

- One dozen rotten eggs which were found to be part of a batch problem as a result of inadequate temperature control during transport from Eastern States. The complaint led to the removal of several cartons of eggs from sale.
- A lettuce which was unfit for consumption, led to the batch being removed from sale.
- Bread transported from the Eastern States was found to be mouldy due to a packaging breach.
- Unpasteurised fruit juice which had been transported from the Eastern States was found to be fermented due to a packaging breach.

All complaints are investigated and this may involve working closely with food handlers, retail outlets, food manufacturers, chemical analysts and entomologists.

#### ***Food Sampling Programme***

A total of five meat samples were taken from Meat Direct at 147 Canning Highway East Fremantle. All samples taken were sent for chemical analysis in accordance with

## Health Services

procedures established by the Local Health Authorities Analytical Committee and it was pleasing to note that all samples complied with the Food Standards Code.

A total of five pre-prepared packaged ready-to-eat fruit and vegetable samples were taken for bacteriological sampling as part of a metropolitan wide survey undertaken by the Health Department of Western Australia. The results of this survey will be published later in the year, however one of the samples taken in East Fremantle has led to further investigation by the Health Department of WA and AQIS of vegetables imported from Thailand following a positive finding of salmonella in baby corn.

### **Public Building Inspections**

10 routine public building inspections were carried out at sporting clubs for compliance with the Health (Public Building) Regulations 1992. As a result of these inspections routine 6 monthly Fire extinguisher and Exit sign checks by external contractors have been instigated.

6 public buildings comprising The Red Herring, The Left Bank Bar and Café, East Fremantle Yacht Club, Swan Yacht Club, The Trade Winds Hotel and the Old Royal George Hotel were inspected in conjunction with an officer from FESA and outstanding matters in relation to fire safety were consequently attended to.

### **Applications to install grey water systems**

Two further grey water systems have been installed. A resident of East Fremantle was eligible to receive a State Government rebate of \$500.00 by following the correct procedure in applying for and receiving the appropriate permit.

### **Public Swimming Pools**

Water sampling of public pools is carried out to determine water quality and contamination by bacterial and amoebic pathogens. Where problems are detected immediate action is

instigated to ensure public health is not compromised.

The Town of East Fremantle currently has 7 pools at 6 premises which constitute public swimming pools as per the Health (Swimming Pool) Regulations 1964, as amended. All pools are sampled monthly, when open, to ensure compliance with bacteriological and amoebic standards.

During 2007/8 a total of 60 samples were taken, of which 20 were non-compliant samples, resulting in re-sampling on a regular basis. Where non-compliance was detected, the pools were voluntarily closed for disinfection and superchlorination in accordance with Health Department of Western Australia policy. Council's Environmental Health Officer has been working closely with the Health Department of Western Australia when *Acanthamoeba* has been detected during routine sampling.

### **Environmental River Sampling**

Regular samples are taken of river water near Zephyrs café at John Tonkin Park. These samples are taken to boost the Department of Health sampling schedule which comprises water samples being taken on a fortnightly basis during the summer season (November to April). The Department has asked for local government assistance to help achieve 100 samples within a 5 year period in accordance with the 2005 Guidelines for Managing Risks in Recreational Waters. The results of this sampling are utilised for the development of a website titled "Healthy Swimming in Western Australian Waterways" found at [www.healthyswimming.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.healthyswimming.health.wa.gov.au)

Sites within the river are provided with a Grade of A,B,C or D ( green, amber, red) denoting safety for swimming. The area in front of Zephyrs Café is currently graded green.

### **Private Swimming Pools**

All private swimming pools were entered onto an electronic database for the first time.



## Health Services

These pools are currently being inspected by The Royal Life Saving Society of Australia who have a contract with the Town to undertake the 4 yearly inspection round. There were approximately 360 private swimming pools to inspect. The full report is not available as yet.

### **Notifiable Diseases**

For the period under review five cases of notifiable diseases were recorded. When requested by the Health Department, patients are interviewed to determine the origin of the disease and the information conveyed to the Health Department of Western Australia for further analysis.

The diseases reported were:

Campylobacteriosis	3
Salmonellosis	2

### **Pollution.**

Council's Principal Environmental Health Officer is available to provide advice in relation to most environmental matters, and can investigate complaints relating to noise, air and water borne pollution.

### **Noise Pollution**

A total of 30 noise complaints were received and can be classified as follows:

Pool pump noise	1
Noisy parties/loud music	7
Builders loud radio	2
Builders starting early ( before 7am)	4
Demolition	1
Air conditioner noise	1
Power Tools/Construction	3
Commercial premises	3
Gymnasium	2
Early morning deliveries	5
Rooster crowing	1

Noise complaints are investigated under the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997. All complainants are asked to put their complaint in writing, either by writing a letter or completing a noise

complaint form. The owner of the premises in question is then advised that a complaint has been made and notified of their obligations in regard to the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations, and the various penalties which may apply.

### **Air Pollution**

The burning of rubbish or the use of incinerators is not permitted within the Town of East Fremantle. Wood burning fires are a major source of pollution during winter in Perth as smoke particles from wood smoke contribute up to 40-60% of winter haze. The Department of Environment distributes information in relation to the correct storage and fuel burning techniques to minimise smoke production. Smoky chimney complaints are investigated from the view point of education not enforcement.

The Department of Environment and Conservation continues it's programme : "Halt the Haze Wood Heater Replacement Program 2008" which offers a \$500 rebate to eligible households willing to remove a wood burning heater, or permanently disable their fireplace and replace it with a flued or ducted gas heater.

Enquiries and complaints in relation to asbestos or dust are received, often in conjunction with demolitions, renovations or building related activities. All complaints are followed up with the contractor or owner and guidelines in relation to the safe handling and removal of asbestos, and the disposal of asbestos at an approved site are forwarded to the relevant person. The Principal Environmental Health Officer and Principal Building Surveyor liaise to try and prevent hazardous situations occurring and to investigate complaints and take the appropriate action to prevent a recurrence.

Complaints have been received in relation to sand drift following subdivision or earthmoving works, and Council asks that all vacant lands are treated to stabilise the soil,

## Health Services

and reduce problems for surrounding residents.

### ***Pest Control Services***

Council's Environmental Health Service provide Racumin sachets for the control of rodents in residential areas and Talon wax baits for the Town of East Fremantle rodent baiting program. A total of 455 residents collected free rat baits over the financial year. Advice and information is also given to the public in relation to pest control with most queries relating to rats, mice, ants, bees, paper wasps, European wasps, cockroaches, head lice, mosquitoes and white cedar moth. Information and advice is also available on a wide variety of garden pests, weeds and noxious plants.

### ***Cooperative Fox Control Project***

A survey undertaken by Animal Pest Management found fox activity along all of the limestone ridges from the Stirling Highway bridge upstream to Petra Street. From Stirling Highway through to Leeuwin Barracks, no fox dens were found. Activity was restricted to fox tracks seen along the ridge and in parks. From Leeuwin Barracks to the upstream boundary, nine (9) active fox dens were found on the steep slope from council parks to the river. All fox dens were not necessarily being used all the time as some foxes appeared to be using multiple dens. It is likely that there are foxes within the Port Authority land and the City of Fremantle, as there are with the City of Melville.

Accordingly, biodiversity funding was sought and received through a joint application by City of Melville, Town of East Fremantle, City of Fremantle, Transfield Services and the Fremantle Port Authority for the purpose of a cooperative fox control project. The project is harnessing the community to report fox sightings and utilise a pest management contractor to trap foxes within the adjoining council areas. This will ensure that there is a regional and therefore more successful approach to protecting our wildlife from

predators. A full report will be available later in the year.

### ***Waste Management & Recycling***

Council continued its participation in the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC), in respect of its refuse and recycling removal kerbside collections, and green waste verge collections held 3 times per year. Presently, one recycling bin is provided for each premises, both residential and commercial.

Mixed Solid Waste – tonnages received at the Composting Facility totalled 1,792 tonnes - and 686 tonnes to Landfill. Grand total 2,477 tonnes (2006/7 2,635 tonnes)

Recycling – Tonnages received at the Materials Recovery Facility totalled 972 tonnes - (2005/6/7 894 tonnes)

Green Waste Processing – Tonnages received at the RRRC totalled 405 tonnes - (2006/7 434 tonnes)

Tip passes – This financial year ratepayers will be issued with 1 tip pass which can either be used at the Henderson Road Landfill Site or the Green Waste Facility at Canning Vale.

Recycling initiatives which reduce the landfill of hazardous household wastes include drop off points at the Town Hall for:

1. Mobile phones and associated batteries via the Mobile Muster,
2. Rechargeable batteries via the Cleanaway program,
3. Printer cartridges via the Planet Arc program, and
4. Needles and syringes into dedicated sharps containers.

### ***Cities for Climate Protection Program***

The Town of East Fremantle continued with *Cities for Climate Protection Australia (CCP)* to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Council officers regularly attended regional CCP meetings to help develop a regional approach to cross border issues. A regional CCP

## Health Services

committee assists the Town with Regional CCP initiatives. These issues include street lighting, energy consumption in the business sector, transportation (including alternative fuels), green purchasing policy and education/promotion. A summary of the Regional Community Greenhouse Gas Project follows:

### **Climate Actions Project**

Through Climate Actions, the owners/managers are offered a free, confidential service to support their efforts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions from their shop. The Green Enterprise Facilitator works with the business to identify opportunities for energy savings and waste reduction. Many energy saving opportunities were found in the areas of refrigeration, lighting, air conditioning, and hot water. Over 70% of the Climate Actions businesses have achieved better energy efficiency and reduced their electricity bill.

The business award winners for outstanding action to reduce greenhouse emissions are:

Mr Fabio Hupfer, of Hubbles Yard Café, keeps his appliances running efficiently through regular maintenance and uses energy efficient lighting. He uses minimal air-conditioning in his shop by opening the doors when the sea breeze comes in.

Mr Nam Vo, of Quarterdeck Deli, installed timers on his drinks fridges to turn them off overnight, and insulated the hot water pipe on his storage hot water system to reduce standing loss.

Additional participants included Meat Direct, Ambience Cafe and the George Street Wine Store.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction – 28.5 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e

### **Living Smart**

This course assists to educate the community on sustainable lifestyles and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction – 22.4 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e

### **Energy Actions**

This project comprises providing households with information on specific energy reduction opportunities.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction – 16.5 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e

### **Alternative Fuel**

Helping participating Councils use biodiesel in their diesel fleet. East Fremantle has not introduced biodiesel at this stage.

### **Renewable Energy**

Helping council plan to install renewable energy systems. East Fremantle has not installed renewable energy at this stage. However, data on energy and water usage is being collated through a subscription to Planet Footprint.

### **Child Health Centre**

The Sumpton Green facility provided by Council hosts the East Fremantle Playgroup and the Child Health Clinic.

Over the past 12 months the Child Health Clinic has provided enormous assistance to residents and their young families. The service has had over 1067 individual contacts (1312 in 2006/7) and 795 group contacts (849 in 2006/7). Clinic nurses deal with a number of issues including post natal depression, developmental screening and nutrition. Other services include

- weekly new parent groups including adjustment to parenthood, baby massage, play and development and providing a safe environment,
- communication with a new baby including settling strategies and early communication,
- “Introduction to Family Foods” around the 6 months of age.
- “Toddler Workshops” including nutrition and eating patterns, bed time and sleep, toileting, development and behaviours.

## Health Services

These services are available on a regular basis through appointment by contacting the Community Nurse on 93192384. Home visits are also undertaken by the Nurse.

### **Disability Access and Inclusion Plans**

The Disability Services Act (1993) was amended in December 2004 and requires Local Governments to develop and implement Disability Access and Inclusion Plans (DAIPs). These will support the provision of access to Council services, premises and facilities and engender inclusion in the community. The goal is to provide, as much as is reasonable, the same level of access as people without a disability enjoy, and ensure that people are not discriminated against on the basis of their disability.

The 6 desired outcomes of the DAIP are:

1. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of and any events organised by a public authority.
2. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the buildings and other facilities of a public authority.
3. People with disabilities receive information from a public authority in a format that will enable them to access the information as readily as other people are able to access it.
4. People with disabilities receive the same level and quality of service from the staff of a public authority as other people receive from the staff of that public authority.
5. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to a public authority.
6. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any public consultations by a public authority.

A draft Disabled Access and Inclusion plan 2007-2011 has been submitted to the Disability Services Commission, and is to be

placed on Council's Website for the purpose of community consultation. All issues relating to access and inclusion are investigated on a case by case basis by Council officers and referred to State Government as required. The Neighbourhood Watch Committee acts as a community oriented forum at which disability issues are discussed as they emerge. Members of the Committee have been shown the DVD "You Can Make a Difference to Customer Relations for People With Disabilities."

### **Emergency Management**

The Emergency Management Act came into effect on 24 December 2005. It provides for prompt and coordinated management of emergencies in WA. It formalises WA's ability to mitigate or prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from incidents of a large scale or catastrophic nature. The legislation requires the establishment of State Emergency Management policies and plans in relation to all hazards, including acts of terrorism.

Specific local government responsibilities under the Act are:

1. The establishment of an active Local Emergency Management Committee which meets on a regular basis.
2. The formulation and establishment of Local Community Emergency Management Arrangements and a Local Recovery Plan.
3. The management of recovery activities within their local government district and the appointment of a Local Recovery Coordinator.

### **Crime Prevention Partnership**

This partnership agreement commits the parties to:

- i. Supporting, coordinating and administering a local community safety and crime prevention partnership and developing and implementing a local *Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan*.

## Health Services

- ii. Engaging and involving the whole community in planning and implementing community safety and crime prevention strategies.
- iii. Evidence-based decision making that targets areas of greatest need, and monitors and evaluates policies, programs and services.
- iv. Sharing information and experiences between the State Government and the Town of East Fremantle.
- v. Promoting greater community awareness and involvement in community safety and crime prevention efforts to reduce fear of crime levels.
- vi. Coordinating and integrating community safety and crime prevention activities through local service agreements between local government and State Government agencies.
- vii. Establishing measures to monitor progress towards improving community safety and reducing crime.

The Office of Crime Prevention has provided administration costs to the Town of East Fremantle to assist with the Crime Prevention Committee which we have tied in with our Neighbourhood Watch monthly meetings. These costs help offset administration, photocopying and refreshments associated with the meetings.

The development of a local Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan is to occur this financial year. Currently consultants are being contacted in relation to writing a Plan for East Fremantle. Following completion of the plan, Council will be eligible for further funding to implement recommendations in relation to crime reduction.

Police statistics for the 2007/8 year include the following reported offences for East Fremantle:

Burglaries – 123

Stealing (including bag snatches and motor vehicle theft) - 345

### *East Fremantle Festival*

The Town of East Fremantle's community festival in George Street went off with a bang. The festival was truly a celebration of music, markets and mayhem. More than 10,000 people turned out in beautiful weather to sample all that was on offer at the festival. A special feature of this year's festival was the Artisan Market – with over 65 stalls selling art and craft and some local stalls. Local businesses also took the opportunity to open their doors and showcase their services and products. Glasson Park was a favourite with the kids with so much to do, including free face painting, nursing the baby animals, creating giant bubbles, scaling the huge climbing wall, being active in the Gymbus and riding the free carnival rides. The talent on stage was a highlight too. Two stages served up continuous live entertainment right throughout the festival. The Joys of the Women were definitely a festival favourite and the crowd appreciated their Christmas songs. And the crowds loved the roving entertainers including Darian the mimer, Mr Hardy, the living statue, the stiltwalker with his puppet and the impromptu buskers. The very colourful and very loud WASAMBA brought a touch of a Rio carnival to East Fremantle – with hundreds of people joining the parade up and down George Street shaking their shakers that they had made that day at the Festival!

The tempting aromas drifting from the George Street Bistro, George Street Merchants, Hubbles Yard, Limones and the Pizza Palace certainly got the taste buds going, as did the East Fremantle's Tennis Club's sausage sizzle. Other delicious tastings on offer included food by Slow Food Fremantle, Thai and Latin American foods, Mediterranean salads, baked spuds, freshly squeezed orange juice, and home made ice creams and smoothies. The emphasis on

## Health Services

healthy food was noticed and appreciated by many.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank our festival platinum sponsors Lotterywest and the Fremantle Herald and gold sponsors Commercial Cleaning Equipment and Red Hot Design. Thanks also to our bronze sponsors Happenings Events Management, Spice Digital Imaging, Kennards Hire, AAA Production Services, Optima Digital Print, Kailis Organic Olive Groves, Jill Birt Residential Design, Councillor David Arnold, and Slow Food Fremantle. Their support of the festival this year was very much appreciated.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD LINK – HACC SERVICES**

*Sue Limbert, Community Services Officer*

It seems as though it was only last week that I was putting pen to paper for the 2006-07 Neighbourhood Link Annual Report and here I am again doing the same for the 2007-08 Annual Report. Often times we are so caught up in the day to day grind of our daily lives and jobs that we don't allow ourselves time to reflect on what has been achieved or to take time to celebrate our successes. I will therefore reflect on some of our achievements over the past year.

This year has seen our existing internal systems overhauled under the HACC Quality Reporting framework. Along with all other service providers we were required to consider the care and business practices that we have in place and develop ways to improve them. We were required to show how they are meeting specified care standards and accountability requirements.

The streamlined quality reporting builds on and replaces existing systems for all HACC service providers. The HACC focus was on assisting providers to tailor their services to better meet service recipients' needs and to improve their processes.

The high level of skills shortages within the State has become an issue for the whole HACC sector and Neighbourhood Link was not immune from this. Our service experienced some difficulty in the recruitment of suitably qualified and experienced staff for two positions that became available. I am pleased to say that this situation has now been rectified, but the skills shortage issue is one in which the HACC sector will grapple with for some time.

Key achievements for Neighbourhood Link included:

- All sections of Neighbourhood Link worked as an effective team towards achieving our purpose.
- Service was provided to 424 clients
- Continued support was provided to Care-Options, Volunteer Home Support and Challenger TAFE by sitting on the various boards and committees.
- Continued links and networking with other agencies within the disability and frail aged sectors.
- Provided support, supervision and assessment for students on fieldwork placements from Central TAFE and Challenger TAFE.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to the staff, students and volunteers, many of whom have had to work through busy workload schedules, and also to the CEO Stuart Wearne, and the Council who have supported the service through the provision of a high level of professional governance.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH & GRAFFITI PROGRAMS**

*Noel Nimmo, NHW Co-ordinator*

Suburb Co-ordinator: Noel Nimmo  
Area Suburb Managers: Barrie Renouf & Rod Francis  
Street Reps & Members Delivering Newsletters: 33  
Volunteers & Graffiti Members: 78  
Estimated NHW Members: 2198

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A monthly meeting is held at the East Fremantle Council Office at 2.00pm on the second Thursday of each month. This is attended by East Fremantle NHW committee and volunteers, also when possible, members from Fremantle Police and Community Police.

Our area is divided into two sections: north & south of Canning Highway. Three thousand three hundred Neighbourhood Watch newsletters are delivered to all homes in East Fremantle every second month of the year. It is hoped that the newsletters helps to alleviate the fear of crime by advising the community of what crime has happened in a particular locality. No names, addresses or personal details are revealed, only street, day and time and a general description of the crime are recorded. The objects of the newsletters are to:

- Promote protection & security for seniors at risk.
- Assist in dealing with telephone solicitations & door to door salesman.
- Advise of current frauds & scams.
- Advise of crime prevention programs.
- Provide information on how to avoid becoming a victim of crime.
- Provide home security information & inspection by police.
- Promote expanded involvement in Neighbourhood Watch.
- Provide information on method of reporting crime to Police.
- Provide a phone number that is not a Police number. (This one very popular)

If members advise NHW they are going away, other members will regularly check the front of their empty home. Engraving of valuables can be arranged through NHW. Items that cannot be engraved can be photographed for members.

### **Crime Alert**

When a member informs us that they have been a victim of crime we print & drop a crime alert form into about 25 homes around the area that the crime had occurred, no names or addresses, only streets, day, time and a general description of the crime are recorded.

When graffiti is reported to Neighbourhood Watch, a photo is taken and the details recorded. This information is then passed on to the appropriate departments involved with removal of the offending material. A follow up photo is taken to check the graffiti has been removed. The graffiti program was started in September 2001.

During 2003/2004 we took 500 photos which were taken at 45 sites and resulted in 76 formal police reports. During 2004/2005 we took 1,288 photos which were taken at 74 sites and resulted in 912 formal police reports. During 2005/2006 we took 1,555 photos which were taken at 89 sites and resulted in 1,331 formal police reports. During 2006/2007 we took 1,568 photos which were taken at 190 sites and resulted in 1,452 formal police reports. During 2007/2008 we took 1435 Photos which were taken at 204 sites and resulted in all photos going to the Police.

A tour of the entire East Fremantle area is taken 5 times a week to take photos, and check on other items (Main Roads, Western Power infrastructure etc). Where graffiti is obscene or has phone numbers on it, a photo is taken and the graffiti reported and removed as soon as possible.

Weekly reports and photos are emailed or hand delivered to:

- Western Power
- Main Roads
- Traffic Lights Boxes
- Telstra
- Fremantle Police & Community Police
- Fremantle Graffiti Removal Team
- East Fremantle Volunteers helpers

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Three new projects introduced during the year were:

- A once a week removal of graffiti on our blue bus stops by Council & NHW.
- Meetings & discussion with other councils on graffiti attacks.
- A new Crime Alert program started in East Fremantle on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 08; an email is sent to myself if there has been a break-in in East Fremantle. The police give us a street name and a series of house numbers to which we are required to deliver a Crime Alert letter and crime security information. Our volunteers are then contacted and deliver the information the same day. In May and June we had 21 streets to deliver Crime Alerts (over 700 letters were delivered).

We had been conducting a weekly visit to Fremantle Police Station with a graffiti map. This project over the last 12 months has proved to be very successful but was suspended in May this year. However, I am still working on this program. A follow up is always taken to check if the graffiti has been removed. Crime statistics are collected from the police each week or when we can get them, and are then broken down to particular crime scenes. A Crime Alert is then delivered to homes or units around this area as soon as possible after the crime.

A number of phone calls (on graffiti, stealing, car theft, suspicious persons and other worries people have) were recorded on our Neighbourhood Watch phone over the last twelve months from concerned residents who wanted to ensure the police received any relevant information.

The Town of East Fremantle provides an annual budget allocation for expenses.

With the help of all our volunteers, Neighbourhood Watch has had a very active and successful year. And my thanks to all my volunteers. They are E F N H W.

The NHW committee would like to record its appreciation and thanks to the Town of East Fremantle and all staff for their help and guidance over the year.

Also our appreciation and thanks to the Fremantle Police, Community Police and the members of the Office of Crime Prevention.

### **RANGER SERVICES**

*Andrew Driver, Senior Ranger*

For the majority of the year ending 30 June 2008, Ranger Services were manned by one full time Senior Ranger, one part time Ranger and one casual Ranger.

### **Services and Responsibilities**

Rangers are Authorised Officers under the following Acts and Regulations:

- Dog Act
- Animal Welfare Act
- Litter Act
- Bush Fires Act
- Off Road Vehicles Act
- Local Government Act
- Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act
- Fish Resources Management Act
- All Town of East Fremantle's Local Laws

Council's Ranger Services are also responsible for:

- Assisting with road closures
- Assisting emergency services at traffic accidents
- Parking
- Mooring pens / Launching Ramp
- Community education programs
- Safety and security of Council property
- Emergency management response
- Liaising with emergency services, school authorities, business holders, residents, community members, youth groups



## Health Services

### Dog Statistics

	2007/08	2006/07
Registrations (Sterilised)	1113 (914)	1016 (820)
Cautions	233	269
Infringements	21	3
Attacks – Human (dogs euthanased)	2	0
Attacks - Animal	5	2
Barking Dogs	180	180
Stray Dogs Collected	104	138
Stray Dogs Returned	73	100
Impounded	31	38
Reclaimed	30	33
Unclaimed and re-housed	1	4
Destroyed	0	1

### Dog Act Infringements/Cautions

From 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 Rangers continued the policy of issuing infringement notices only to people who had previously been found in contravention of the Dog Act and who had been issued a written cautionary notice on that occasion.

### Dog Attacks

On average Rangers attended four (4) minor dog incidents per week, with numbers increasing during the summer months. These minor incidents usually involve a dog's alleged intimidating and aggressive behaviour or general nuisance.

The majority of these cases occurred in off-lead exercise areas and were the result of an owner throwing a ball/loved toy for their dog to chase and other off-lead dogs chasing the same ball. In all cases the dog's owner was identified and a Ranger was allocated to work with the owner to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities under the Dog Act and to assist the owner with advice on behavioural control techniques available to them to train their dog safely and correctly.

### Education of dog owners

Numerous dog owners were spoken to for various offences with verbal and written cautions being issued on each occasion. During the educational "dog owner awareness education programme" Rangers suspended the issuance of infringement notices in general but were authorised to issue infringements to repeat offenders.

As part of the educational programme Ranger Services distributed a total of two thousand five hundred (2,500) informational brochures to dog owners to raise the levels of voluntary compliance with the Dog Act.

Rangers continued conducting puppy socialisation and basic behavioural training classes free of charge to residents and regular visitors. These classes were of one (1) hour duration per session and held twice a week for a ten (10) week period during October, November and December. The sessions proved to be a popular way to train residents' dogs as well as form a new social network.

Rangers delivered educational programmes to Richmond Primary School students based on the "Delta Dog Safe Programme" and these appear to have been enjoyed by the participating students and teachers.

The combination of all of the above programmes has seen a significant reduction in contraventions of the Dog Act within the Town of East Fremantle and a reduction in issuance levels of both cautionary notices and infringement notices.

The East Fremantle and Subiaco Veterinary Clinics provided the Town of East Fremantle Ranger Services team with a significant number of vouchers that provided free sterilisation of residents' companion animals which in turn allowed owners to reduce the registration costs for their pets. Rangers wish to extend the Town's appreciation for both clinics generosity in this programme.

## Health Services

### ***Barking Complaints***

Rangers receive on average five barking dog complaints a week (official complaints involve at least three complainants, two from different residences for each complaint). All complaints have now been resolved and closed to the satisfaction of both the complainant and the barking dog's owners, with most resolved by verbal interaction between the owner and a Ranger Services team member. In general most owners are not aware of the dog's nuisance barking before the Ranger brings the matter to their attention and these extra complaints do not form part of the above recorded figures.

Rangers endeavour to provide the owners of barking dogs with advice and practical help in relation to the many alternatives to them to enable the owner to successfully modify the animal's behaviour.

### ***Dog Registrations***

Ranger Services staff conducted an extensive dog registration program, which included conducting a door knock to follow up expired dog registrations, canvassing dog owners in the streets and local parks, and the use of cautionary notices for follow up action.

### ***Fire Breaks***

Fire break inspections of all relevant properties were conducted in early November and all the relevant property owners were then advised in writing of the actions required to bring their land into compliance with the requirements of the Bush Fires Act.

A further check of all relevant properties was conducted in the first week of December 2007 with fifteen (15) properties requiring attention as they did not comply with the November 30 deadline mandated by State Government. The property owners receiving fire warning notices ensured that their properties were compliant by the date stated in the cautionary notices. Bush Fire Act infringement notices were not issued as there were verifiable mitigating factors in each case.

### ***Parking***

	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2006/07</b>
Infringements	2,642	2,361
Cautions	5,181	4,131
Abandoned Vehicles	149	97
Abandoned Vehicles – owners traced	147	95
Abandoned Vehicles – Sold by Tender	2	2

### ***Parking Cautionary Notices***

An example of where cautionary notices have been used with great success is with drivers of vehicles picking up or delivering children to both Richmond Primary School and East Fremantle Primary School. It is essential, in these areas, to ensure that traffic flows safely and continuously through the "kiss and drop" lanes to ensure that both adjacent parking areas and carriageways are kept free of traffic congestion.

### ***Abandoned Vehicles***

Rangers continued the policy of attempting to locate the vehicle's owner prior to impoundment and advise them of both the penalties/costs of the abandonment and alternatives available to them.

Owners of abandoned vehicles are advised that scrap dealers would generally pay the owner \$40-\$80 and would also arrange to have the vehicle removed at no cost to the owner.

### ***Local Laws***

As most residents and visitors to the Town of East Fremantle are generally unaware of the various Local Laws and penalties applicable within the Town of East Fremantle, Ranger Services employs a policy of "inform rather than infringe" in relation to contraventions of Local Laws.

## Health Services

	2007/08	2006/07
Infringements	0	0
Cautions	1,002	876
Litter Act cautions	848	641
Stolen Vehicles	33	29

Upon issuance of each cautionary notice, Rangers advise the offender of the relevant Local Law, the reason for the Local Law and the potential penalties for future contravention of Local Laws. In all but seventeen (17) occasions the issuance of the first cautionary notice was sufficient to rectify the contravention within the time frame set by Rangers. Of the remaining seventeen (17), these were rectified as soon as practical to do so after the issuance of the cautionary notice, taking into account mitigating factors such as residents inability to comply as a partner was away in hospital, elderly resident with no immediate family assistance. In each of these cases Rangers arranged for assistance via either other Council Departments or from State Government agencies.

### *Security assistance*

	2007/08	2006/07
Detainment of offenders	47	41
Ranger/Police cooperation	37	79
Ranger/Police dual manned patrols	12	97
Response to burglar alarms	172	95
Damage Reports	4,500	2,668

### *Response to Burglar Alarms*

Rangers responded to both alarms reported by residents and those located by Rangers during routine patrols. When Rangers located the active alarm, they requested administration staff to check Council data bases to identify the owner and contact telephone numbers. Where owners can be identified and contacted

via telephone, Rangers ascertain if the resident wishes to have a security check of the premises conducted by Rangers and the owners consent on access to rear yards etc.

In cases where the owner can not be contacted Rangers conducted a visual security check of all visible windows, doors, walls and roof lines and a Ranger's attendance notice is left for the resident advising of time of attendance and limits of security check conducted and result of the limited check.

### *Damaged Infrastructure Reports*

In all cases Rangers notified the appropriate agency such as Main Roads, Western Power, Town of East Fremantle etc in order to ensure that repairs/replacement of the damaged asset were made as soon as possible by the relevant agency.

## Town Planning/Private Domain

The general purpose of Town Planning in the Town of East Fremantle is to ensure that development meets its existing and future amenity needs. Amenity is the sense of well being and ambience that is influenced by the character and quality of the local environment.

Town planning has two discreet but interrelated themes, referred to as Orderly Planning and Proper Planning.

Orderly Planning, based on procedural theory, relates to the processes involved in assessing development, making Policy, Scheme amendments etc. Examples of Orderly Planning include:

- Seeking neighbour comment on a boundary wall; and
- Seeking public comment on Policies and Town Planning Scheme amendments.

Proper Planning is based upon substantive theory, and relates to the impact (now or in the future) of a development upon the environment. Examples of Proper Planning include:

- Height controls to ensure solar access and views are conserved;
- Density controls to ensure the retention of open space;
- Setback, fenestration, roof pitch controls and the like to ensure streetscape harmony; and
- Location of trip attractors within easy walking distance of a bus stop.

The stated aims of the Town of East Fremantle Town Planning Scheme No 3 include:

- To recognise the historical development of East Fremantle and to preserve the existing character of the Town;
- To promote the conservation of buildings and places of heritage significance, and to protect and enhance the existing heritage values of the Town;
- To provide for a variety of development to meet the needs of the community with regard to housing, employment and services;

- To facilitate and encourage effective public involvement in planning issues of significance to the character, amenity and environmental attributes of the Town.

The Planning Department liaises with the Building and Environmental Health Departments regarding the assessment of development applications before Council.

During the year, Chris Warrener, was appointed Council's Town Planner on a one year contract to oversee town planning operations.

Mr Paul Busby has been employed as the Town's Building Surveyor.

During 2007/08:

- Council resolved to reaffirm that its entire Draft Heritage Survey had been adopted as Council's revised Municipal Inventory which would now proceed to public consultation.
- The refurbishment of the former Masonic Hall at 219 Canning Highway.
- Council granted planning approval for the demolition of "Derna Court" and the construction of a three level grouped dwelling development at 58A Preston Point Road.
- Council granted approval for a mixed use development at 83 Canning Highway comprising 3 x shops, 4 x offices and 2 x apartments

Membership of the Town Planning & Building Committee (Private Domain) as at 30 June 2008 consisted of Cr Stefanie Dobro as Presiding Member and Deputy Mayor, Mayor Alan Ferris, Cr Richard Olson, Cr Alex Wilson, Cr Barry de Jong and Cr Maria Rico.

## Town Planning/Private Domain

### **Building**

#### Building Approvals:

Residential Dwellings	17	\$ 11,379,266
Alterations/Additions	42	11,158,912
Swimming Pools	21	757,813
Outbuildings	17	244,420
Patios/Alfresco/Landscaping	35	497,781
Carports	5	63,065
Refurbishment	5	106,705
Balcony/Verandah	4	76,500
Fences/Retaining Wall	23	313,798
Internal Alterations	2	5,000
Commercial Fitout	5	740,800
Commercial Building	1	900,000
Roof Alterations	2	13,779
Light Poles	1	16,500
Signage	1	1,000
	<u>181</u>	26,275,339

#### Demolition Licences Issued:

		21
<i>Residences</i>	19	
<i>Garages</i>	1	
<i>Commercial Building</i>	1	

### **Town Planning**

#### Approval to Commence Development:

<i>Approval</i>	90
<i>Delegated Approval</i>	72
<i>Conditional Approval</i>	1
<i>Applications Deferred</i>	1
<i>Applications Withdrawn</i>	6
<i>Building Licence Only Required</i>	36

#### Planning Approvals Appealed:

<i>Upheld</i>	3
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#### Subdivision

<i>Refused</i>	1
<i>Final Approval</i>	5
<i>Endorsement of Deposited Plan Only</i>	18