

MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WA Regional Capitals identified by UWA research

December 12, 2014

Ten cities in Western Australia have been identified as regional capitals after six months of intensive research by the University of Western Australia.

Albany, Broome, Bunbury, Busselton, Esperance, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Karratha, Northam and Port Hedland all qualify as regional capital entities.

The WA Regional Capital Alliance partnered with the University of Western Australia to conduct the research which closely examined a range of functional and economic factors to produce the Regional Capital policy.

The identification of WA's regional capitals is based on a sound empirical foundation which employed a rigorous statistical method. The research was conducted to facilitate an evidence-based policy, indicating specific areas of policy-making that may require revision.

The regional capitals were determined by factors including population and employment, viability of urban settlement, growth potential, location in the settlement hierarchy and local characteristics.

President of WA Regional Capital Alliance, Ron Yuryevich said the Regional Capitals would now be advocating for the State Government to adopt the policy.

"We will be working with the State Government and its agencies to encourage them to use the classification to deliver sound, evidenced based policies for regional communities in WA," he said.

"These cities have had to carry extra burdens that are not recognised by government."

“That’s why the work done by UWA into WA’s regional capital cities is a win for us as it presents a clearer understanding of not only the opportunities but the barriers to regional growth.”

The identification of Western Australia’s Regional Capitals is just one of more than six reports produced from this collaboration to help guide and formulate evidenced based policy for the economic development and prosperity of Regional Western Australia.

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More information contact: