

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### PERTH @ 3.5 MILLION PLAN WELCOMED AS CRITICAL TO CITY'S FUTURE

QWest Paterson Chairman Warwick Hemsley has welcomed the release of the state government's latest planning framework: Perth at 3.5million as a critical step forward in planning for Perth's future.

"For some time we have been discussing the need for government to step up their planning for Perth's urban future as we continue to grow at the fastest rate of any capital city in Australia," Mr Hemsley says.

"Perth is bursting at the seams and the need for greater urban consolidation, particularly around employment and transport nodes, is paramount to us developing into a vibrant city that provides affordable and appropriate housing options to a growing population," Mr Hemsley said.

"While we may be experiencing an economic dip at the moment, there is no doubt that Perth is front and centre of the 'Asian century' and we are well placed to participate in the growth of the region given that we are so resource rich," Mr Hemsley said.

"The prediction of Perth reaching 3.5million is possibly even a conservative estimate compared with other numbers that have been thrown up in recent months – demographer Bernard Salt's recent report predicted Perth may reach 4.6million by 2050," Mr Hemsley said.

"We cannot afford to bury our heads in the sand," Mr Hemsley said. "With a revolution in technology, communications and the aviation industry that is prompting even greater connectivity between Perth and the rest of the world, we are no longer an isolated city. This means we are more open to business and investment from around the globe than ever before."

"Whereas Perth once had a sense of great isolation from the rest of the world, these technological changes as well as our physical connection with an enormous percentage of the world's population, who share the same time zone, means that we are no longer so insulated from global growth and activity," Mr Hemsley said.

"To accommodate this inevitable growth, Perth needs to change its approach to density," Mr Hemsley said. "I would really like to see a serious commitment to realising the density targets that are set out in the plans."

"In fact, the targets will provide local governments with a strong context when planning for density in their local areas."

"The sub-regional frameworks that form part of this new plan are promising in that they are specific with regard to how many people are likely to be living in certain areas and where the housing and jobs need to be located," Mr Hemsley said.

"It's not just about simply planning for more people, it's about ensuring appropriate housing for a changing demographic," Mr Hemsley said.

“We have a significantly ageing population which means a growth in one and two person households.”

“These people will most likely be seeking smaller housing options so urban consolidation and medium to high density development will ensure that our future population’s needs are being taken into account as well as minimising urban sprawl,” Mr Hemsley said.

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To find out more or to arrange an interview with Warwick, please contact:

Gemma Osiejak

Communications Manager

QWest Paterson

E: [gemma@qwestpaterson.com.au](mailto:gemma@qwestpaterson.com.au)

M: 0421 506 819

Link to full documents: <http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/publications/3.5million.asp>