

City of Greater Geraldton Council Policy

2.6 MINE RESOURCING

SUSTAINABILITY THEME

Economy

OBJECTIVES

To position Geraldton as a hub for Fly-In/Fly-Out (FIFO) and/or Drive-In/Drive-Out (DIDO) workers employed with mining companies in the Pilbara, Murchison, Midwest and Gascoyne regions, reducing the reliance on Perth to serve the region's resource sector workforce needs.

To advocate support for hinterland Midwest region Local Government Authorities to ensure that mining operations deliver maximum economic and social benefit for communities in direct proximity to each mining operation.

This Policy is a component of the strategy under Healthy Circulation of the Geraldton Jobs and Growth Plan 2020-2023.

POLICY STATEMENT

Policy: The City of Greater Geraldton (City) will support strengthening the position of Geraldton as a Fly-In/Fly-out (FIFO) and/or Drive-In/Drive-Out (DIDO) hub and establish a 'hub and spoke' approach to support mine site economic & social development opportunities for regional hinterland communities in which the mines are located.

Rationale: The City is a key regional centre and focus for economic development in the Midwest. Significant investment in large-scale mining and mineral projects and supporting infrastructure is taking place in the region. In-region benefits are not captured with Perth as the main FIFO hub for mine workforces. Geraldton is of significant population size, capacity and liveability to act as an alternative resource for mine site FIFO and/or DIDO operations.

Current practice for mines in hinterland areas commonly see mining camps established as 'independent communities' outside of rural town boundaries. This represents a lost opportunity for both miners and the local communities, with many rural settlements experiencing population loss, lower school enrolments and reduced business/economic growth.

This Policy envisages City action within resources made available via Council budgets from time to time to:

- Encourage existing and new regional mining ventures to use Geraldton as a FIFO and/or DIDO hub for mine workers, with Geraldton developed as a source for specialist staff;
- Collaborate with mining companies to attract their workforces and families to live in Geraldton;
- Locate mining camps in or near to rural Midwest towns reasonably adjacent to mine sites (e.g. within 1 hour drive), rather than create separate settlements, and pursue opportunities to integrate mining camp operations into the economic and social fabric of existing towns;

- Support local procurement contact points (such as the Mid-West Development Commission-based Local Content Advisor) and encourage the local sourcing of products, services and staff by mining companies and their contractors; and
- Ensure that the planning and development of workforce accommodation is consistent with local planning strategies and schemes, except where the *Mining Act 1978* and State Agreement Acts prevail.

Two significant State-based initiatives provide context for this approach:

- The Queensland State Government’s regulatory measures to enforce better regional outcomes via their “*Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act 2017*”; and
- The Western Australia Planning Commission (WAPC) State Policy view on mining camps/ town locations included in their January 2018 “*Position Statement on Workforce Accommodation*”.

POLICY DETAILS

1. The City will encourage existing and new regional mining ventures to use Geraldton as a FIFO and/or DIDO workforce resource hub.
2. The City’s Customer & Business Engagement branch will collaborate with mining companies to attract their workforces to live in Geraldton.
3. The City will encourage existing and new regional mining ventures to source products, services and staff from the local community.
4. The City will support and lobby airline operators to include Geraldton as a stopover and/or transit point for both domestic and charter flights from Perth and other destinations.

KEY TERM DEFINITION

N/A

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Director Development Services oversees the implementation and operation of this policy and ensures City Rangers enforce compliance with local laws and regulations.

Director Infrastructure Services oversees the delivery and maintenance of infrastructure, facilities or public amenities approved by Council consistent with this policy.

WORKPLACE INFORMATION

Geraldton Jobs and Growth Plan 2020-2023

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Directorate		Officer	Review Cycle	Next Due
Development Services		Manager Customer & Business Engagement	Biennial	2026
Version	Decision Reference	Synopsis		
4.	DS056 25/02/2025	Policy Review		