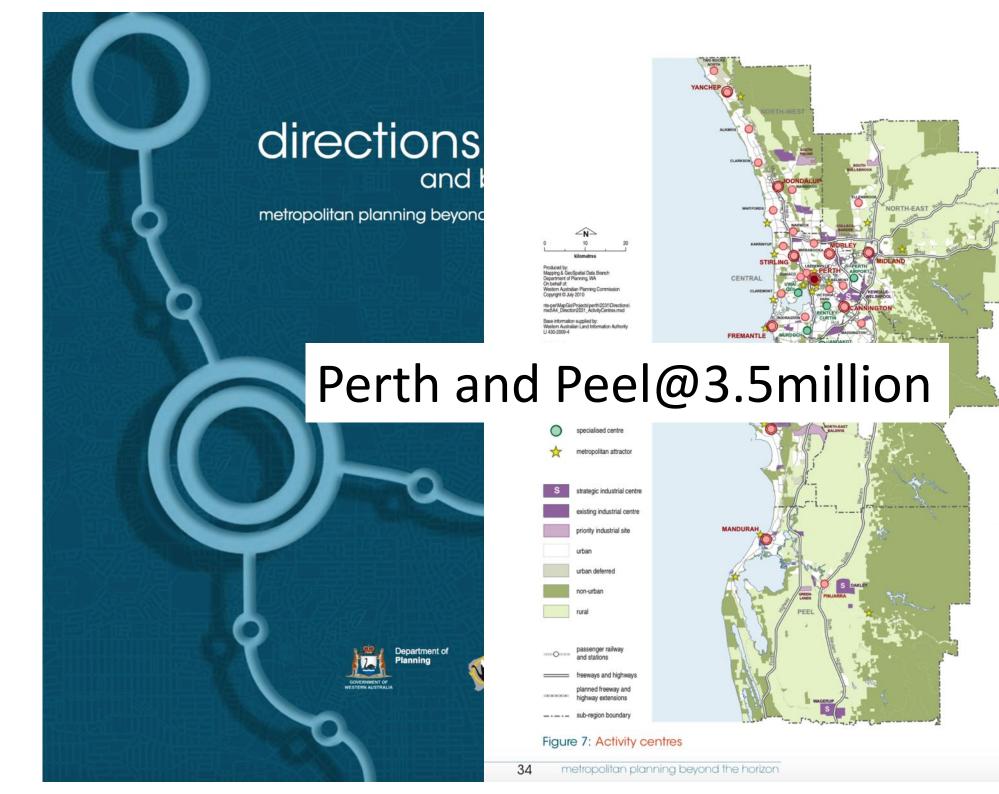
# IA Symposium - Reimagining approvals - Strategic approaches to support Impact Assessment

Strategic assessment of Perth-Peel@3.5 million – lessons learnt todate Garry Middle



# History

- Post Direction 2031 concern from Commonwealth
  - TECs Threatened Species
  - Case by case assessments clumsy
- WA EPA had broader environmental concerns
- 2011 Agreement to do joint SEA EPBC Act and WA EP Act
- Managed by Dept Premier and Cabinet

# History Cont

- May 2015 draft Perth and Peel@3.5million
- July 2015 EPA report "Perth and Peel @ 3.5 million Environmental impacts, risks and remedies".
- December 2015 report titled 'Perth and Peel Green Growth Plan for 3.5 million'
  - In effect the EIS
  - Includes strategic conservation plan

# Overall assessment strategy

- Minimise clearing of native vegetation
- Seek approval or urban, industrial and special rural development as in Frameworks,
- Adopt a process to assess listed infrastructures
- Extract BRM as listed, and
- harvest all of the pines
- Address EPA concerns 'turn off' EP Act

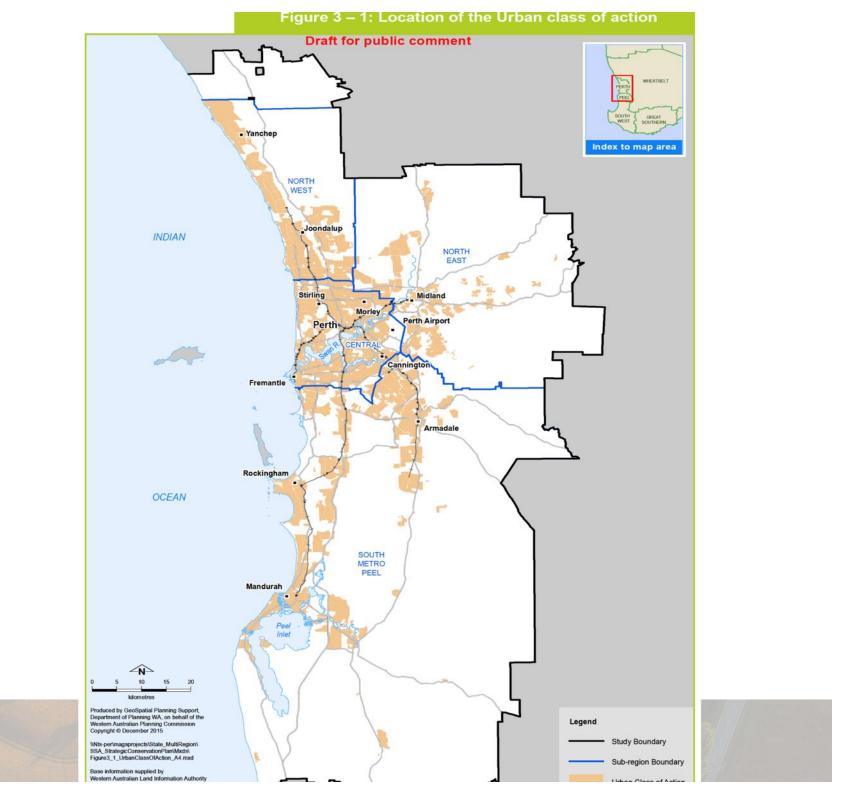
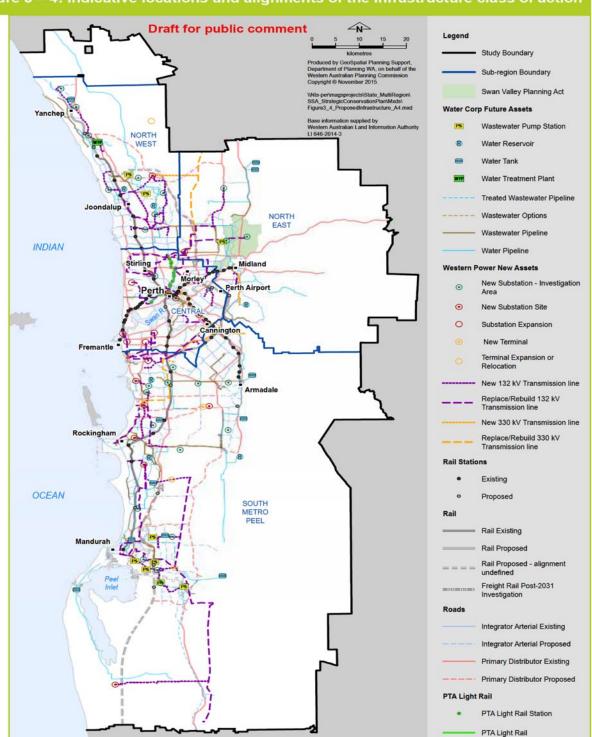


Figure 3 – 4: Indicative locations and alignments of the Infrastructure class of action



#### **EPBC Act - MNES**

- 10 TECs affected;
- Threatened species 37 flora and 13 fauna;
- Listed migratory species shorebirds;
- Wetland of international importance Becher Point, Lakes Thomsons and Forrestdale; and Peel-Yalgorup System;
- World and national heritage built environment - former Fremantle Prison and the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme

# Conservation strategy -

- Expanded conservation reserve system, including those aimed at MNES;
- On-ground management;
- Protecting wetlands, including MNES;
- Improving water quality in the Swan Canning and Peel Harvey systems;
- An offsets program; and
- Improving knowledge of both conservation (Commonwealth) and environmental (State) matters

- EIA does drive better environmental outcomes
  - BaU loss of 27,000 ha of remnant vegetation
  - Draft Framework possible loss of 9,800 ha
    and as little as 7,600 ha

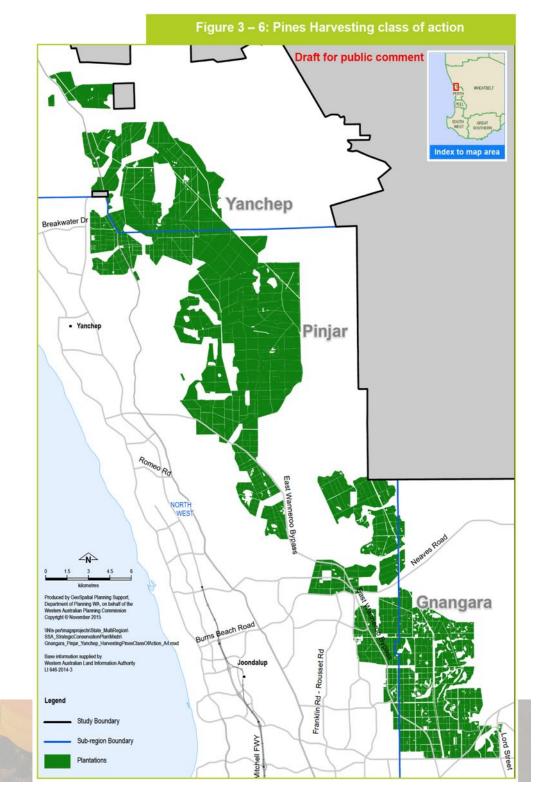
EPBC Act doesn't allow trade-offs

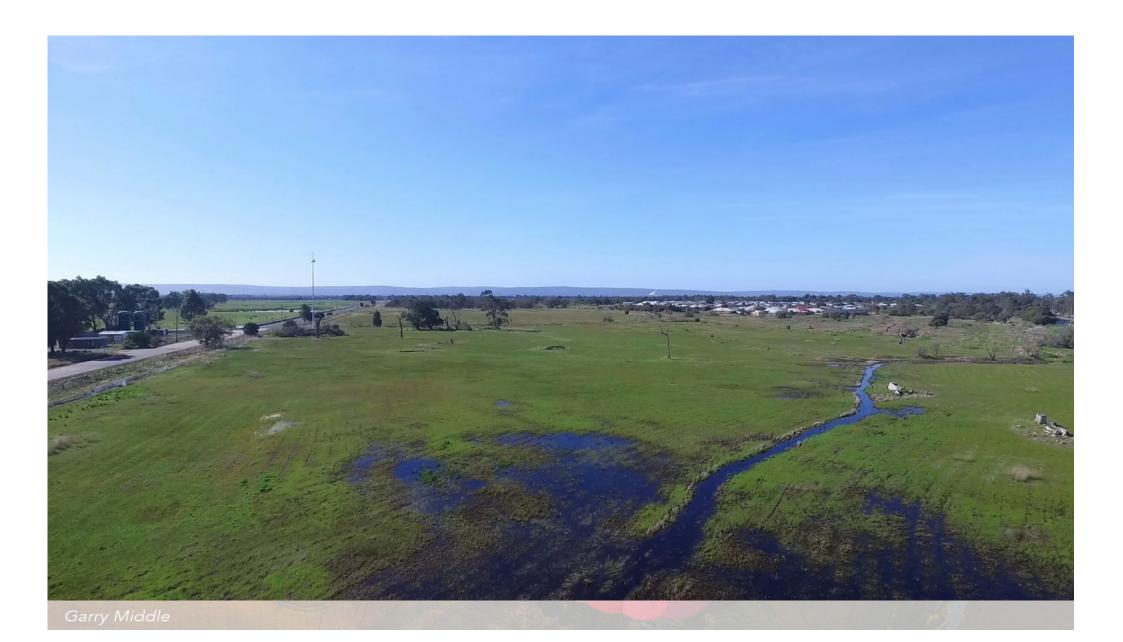


## The Pines

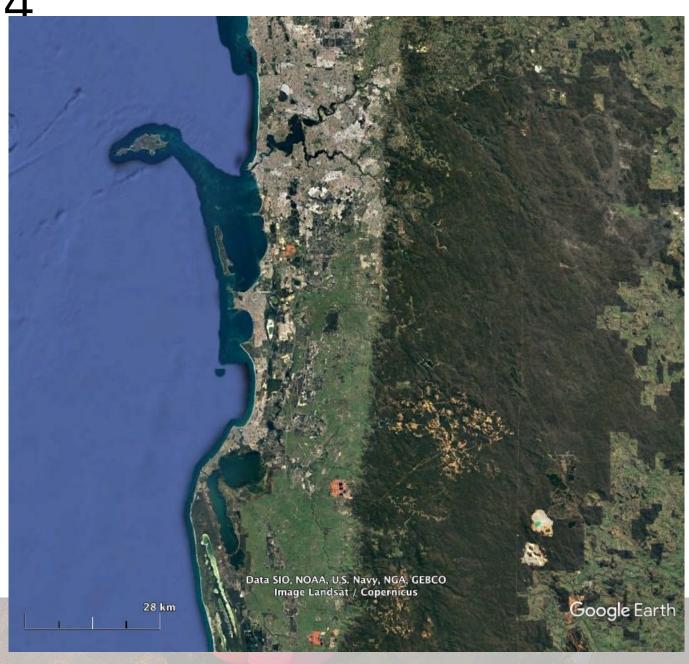
- 23,000 ha of pines
- Carnabys

   Cockatoo vs
   broader
   environmental
   gains
  - Loss of MNES vs groundwater gains





What comes around goes around – Peel Harvey





- Conservation at what cost?
  - possible loss of 9,800 ha and as little as 7,600 ha?
  - The 2,200 to come out of 10% POS
  - Loss of social values of POS, especially recreation

- Real offsetting?
  - An additional 170,000 ha of conservation reserves
  - a minimum of 116,000 ha will contain Carnaby's cockatoo habitat.
  - Of this 170,000 ha, 150,000 ha is already
    Crown land purpose change to include conservation.
  - 20,000 hectares of land is proposed acquisitions of private land.

• Which agency should lead?

- Everyone is ducking the cost issue
- Fatal flaw?