

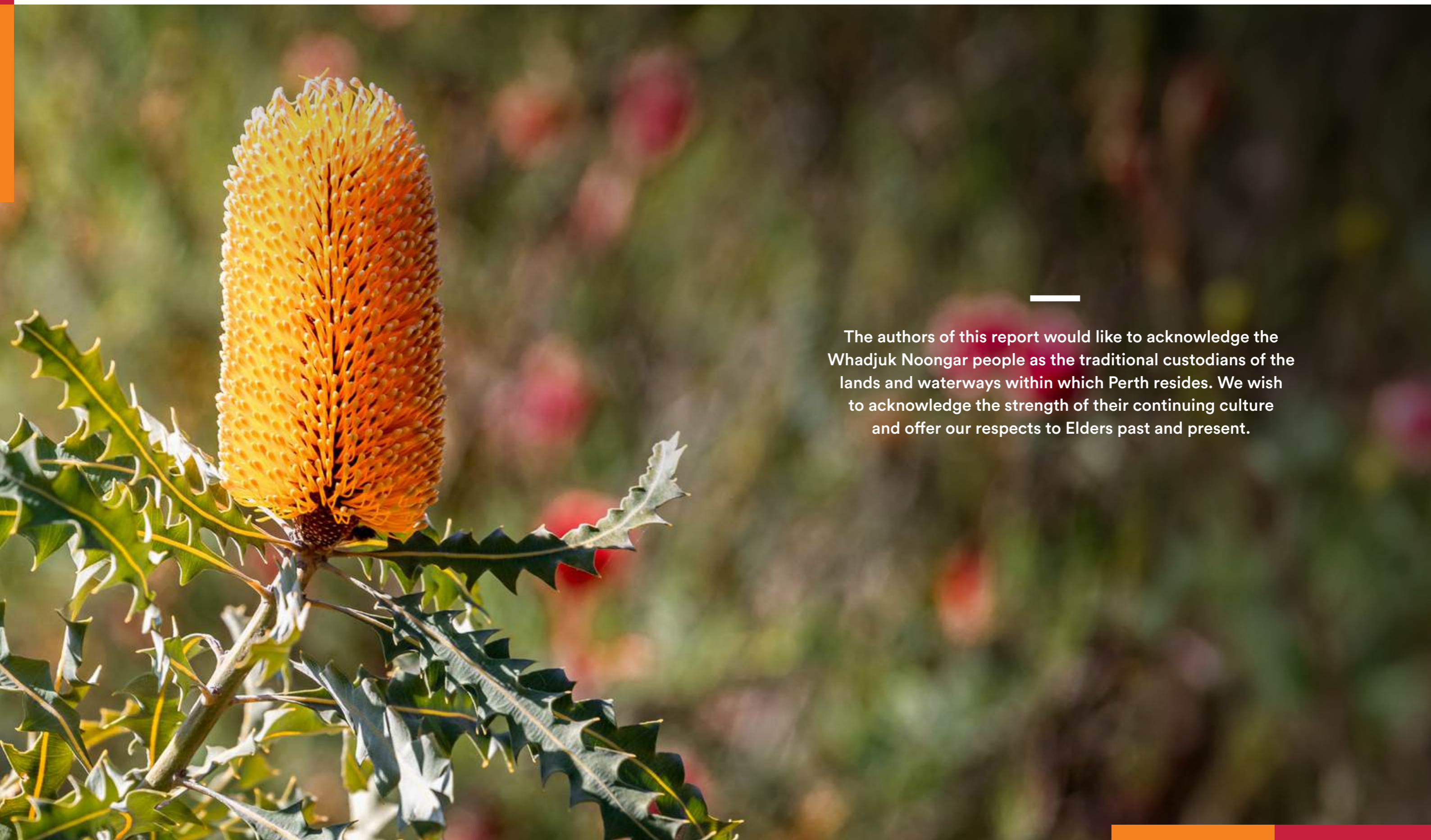
COMMITTEE  
FOR **PERTH**

**s c i t e c h**

P E R T H  
**2050**







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The authors of this report would like to acknowledge the Whadjuk Noongar people as the traditional custodians of the lands and waterways within which Perth resides. We wish to acknowledge the strength of their continuing culture and offer our respects to Elders past and present.



# Foreword

**Committee for Perth first forecast in the 2012 Towards a Bright Future report that Perth's population would arrive at 3.5 million by 2050. We remain on track to reach that target, prompting us to ask – will Perth be ready? How will we adapt to a 50 percent increase in our population over the next 25 years?**

The Western Australian capital continues to reap economic benefits from our state's abundant natural resources. Perth is located within proximity of 60 percent of the world's population, at the gateway to the Indian Ocean. With geographic conditions perfectly suited to the booming space and defence industry, this is our moment to embrace our potential more than ever before.

As a future focused, independent, member-based organisation, Committee for Perth is acutely aware of the exciting opportunities available for Perth. We advocate and challenge for long-term, innovative thinking and a focus on maximising and celebrating our liveability.

It was with this focus we partnered with our member organisation Scitech and engaged accredited futurist Dr Ben Hamer to start our conversation about Perth in 2050. More than 1,400 participated in our survey, and we received input

from key decision makers and sector leaders, as well as those who will be in charge in 2050, the school students of today.

We hope the Perth 2050 report will inspire you to imagine the possibilities for Perth, to believe in the future of a densified, decarbonised and diversified Perth, and Western Australia. Please read the Perth 2050 report, reflect on the findings and speak to your teams, colleagues, family and friends to understand the part you play in the future of our great city.

**Paula Rogers, CEO Committee for Perth**



**At Scitech, we recognise the importance of empowering our community, particularly young people, with the tools to shape a better tomorrow. In partnership with Committee for Perth and Dr Ben Hamer, the Perth 2050 report highlights areas essential to Perth's future success: economic diversification, green energy transition, and responsible technology adoption. Addressing these areas will require equipping our youth—and the community at large—with future-ready STEM skills, digital literacy, and a commitment to lifelong learning. Adaptability and flexibility will be key as we prepare the next generation for emerging careers, many of which we can't yet imagine.**

Reflecting insights from youth, industry, and government, this report captures our collective hopes and challenges for Perth's future and calls us to think beyond today's limits. It underscores the need for a human-centered approach to technology, where innovation fosters connection, respects privacy, and strengthens inclusivity. Likewise, it advocates for urgent action on climate change and transition to green energy to preserve Perth's unique natural beauty. Scitech is proud to contribute to the forward-thinking needed to shape the Perth of 2050 into a leader in sustainability, innovation, and inclusivity. I invite you to explore this report, join the conversation, and help ensure that our city remains an exceptional place to live, work, invest, visit and play for generations to come.

**John Chappell, CEO Scitech**



## A note from the author

I was born and raised in the northern suburbs of Perth, though I currently base myself in Sydney and live between the two cities. This has given me a unique perspective, where I can appreciate first-hand everything that makes Perth special while looking at it from afar, recognising its untapped potential. The other perspective I bring to the research is as a futurist.

A futurist is someone who identifies and maps trends and signals of change that we're seeing today and then projects them into the future to explore the possibilities that lie ahead. And so, I'm in a privileged position where I can look beyond what is right in front of us and gaze decades into the future. To this end, I was engaged by two iconic Perth institutions, Committee for Perth and Scitech, with a clear brief – to take a bold look into the future and imagine what is possible, articulate what Perth could look like and identify what it will take to get there.

Throughout this project, we did just that. I had the opportunity to work with a diverse range of voices, from young students full of optimism to industry leaders focused on innovation. Across all my conversations, one thing was abundantly clear. While the people of Perth love their city, the world is changing and they don't want to sit still as it changes around them.

This report serves as a starting point for the audacious decisions needed to ensure Perth's prosperity in 2050. It doesn't present a definitive view of what

will happen, because we can't predict the future. But what it does do is present and explore ambitious possibilities.

The Perth 2050 report is a critical piece of research, highlighting that the region is at an inflection point, ready to write the next chapter in its story. Without taking decisive steps now, Perth risks missing a once-in-a-generation opportunity to redefine itself and reimagine the way people live, work, invest, visit and play in this beautiful part of the world.

Perth has the potential to not only ask the question of "what do we want to be when we grow up?", but to make it happen and evolve into a globally competitive city. To get there, we need a vision and a decisive plan to get us on our way. One that affords the permission to be bold and the audacity to be imaginative, pushing the boundaries of possibility. The time is now.

**Dr Ben Hamer**







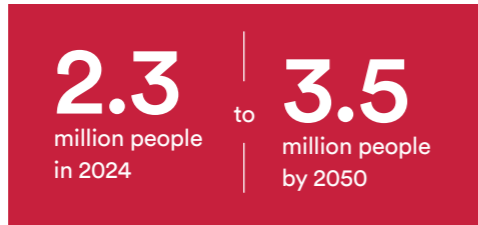
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# Executive Summary

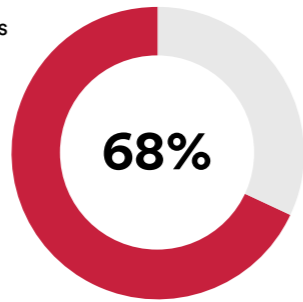
The Perth region (referred to as 'Perth' or 'the region') is projected to grow from



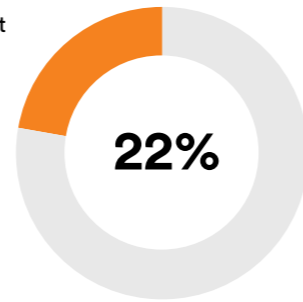
which presents both challenges and opportunities for the Western Australian capital.

This report uses data and trends from today, including results from the recent Perth 2050 survey, to paint a picture of tomorrow. In doing so, it articulates some of the priorities of residents and key considerations for how Perth will get there.

Perth residents that are excited and optimistic about the future



Residents that feel Perth is prepared for 2050



Our environment, health care, housing and economy are of most concern for Perth residents.

By 2050, 90 percent support preserving our natural habitats, green spaces and our coastline, while reducing pollution. 89 percent think we need to design fit-for-purpose health care; and 86 percent hope for better housing affordability and availability.



Throughout the research, ten priorities emerged, reflecting the hopes and fears of Perth residents as they look to 2050. The report is structured around these topics.

|    |   |  |    |   |  |
|----|---|--|----|---|--|
| 01 | Decarbonisation and the desire for sustainability |  | 06 | Beyond mining and toward economic diversification |  |
| 02 | Urban sprawl and density with identity            |  | 07 | Transforming work for the new economy             |  |
| 03 | Reimagined infrastructure and transport           |  | 08 | Skills and educating tomorrow's workforce         |  |
| 04 | Housing affordability and availability            |  | 09 | Ageing strong and living well                     |  |
| 05 | Adopting technology while maintaining humanity    |  | 10 | Building vibrant and inclusive communities        |  |

The Perth 2050 report provides an outlook for the future of Perth. It offers a vision alongside insights, ideas, and perspectives for addressing the challenges and opportunities lying ahead. For some, the year 2050 might seem far away. But getting there is complex and things like housing density, economic diversification and decarbonisation will take time.

The report is not the end of the road but the start of the conversation. To ensure it continues, all levels of government, policymakers and industry must engage and collaborate with the community. It is also hoped upon reading this report, people will have a conversation with a friend, neighbour, family member, colleague or customer about Perth in 2050, what they want it to look like and how the region might get there.





# Introduction

The Perth region is the longest city in the world, stretching more than 150 kilometres from Two Rocks in the north to Clifton in the south. The vibrant capital of Western Australia, which in 2024 is home to around 2.3 million people, sits on Whadjuk Noongar land with an envious blend of natural beauty and modern urban development.

Perth has continued to evolve in line with social, economic and technological advancements, maintaining a balance between its historic roots and its aspirations as a forward-thinking, innovative city on the global stage. And while there is so much promise for Perth, many residents are left asking “where to from here?”.

This report started with that very same question, taking stock of where the region is today and where it is going. To do this, the research looks out to the year 2050, which affords an opportunity to be curious, tap into the imagination and push the boundaries of possibility.

The region is starting from a strong base. It has an ambitious infrastructure program, policies to address issues ranging from sustainability through to inclusive communities, and a plan for evolving the economy. That being said, the Greater Perth region is expected to grow from 2.3 to 3.5 million people by the year 2050. However, more than three quarters of residents feel like the region is not prepared for it, which is where this report comes in.



This report is intended to address three main objectives.

- 1 While much research has already been undertaken into future Perth, it tends to be in isolation. The Perth 2050 report gives a common timeframe and brings everything into one place, offering a distilled yet comprehensive perspective.
- 2 The report has been designed *with* the Perth community, for the Perth community following a significant program of consultation, engaging high school students to senior leaders and everyday members of the community.
- 3 It is hoped this report will instil residents with more confidence in Perth's 2050 outlook. It is intended the report will help inform everything from government policy to community programs. But more than anything, it is about starting a conversation about where Perth is heading, whether that is the kind of future that people want or one they would rather avoid, and how the region might take steps towards its preferred future.

At the end of the day, if you aren't involved in designing and working towards the future, then you'll just end up inheriting a region built for someone else.



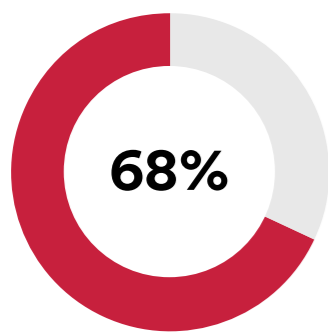
# Perspectives on Perth in 2050

If you ask an outsider about Perth, you'll likely hear something about the weather, beaches or resources. All things Perth inherited. And it has been smart in how it has capitalised on them and played to its strengths. However, the Perth of today needs to evolve if it is going to be a globally competitive city in 2050 and beyond.

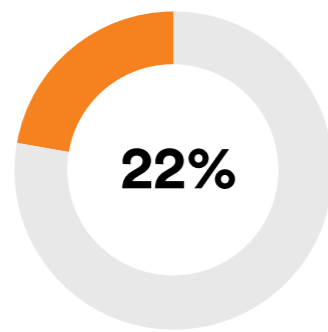
Just over two thirds of residents surveyed express excitement about the future, yet the sentiment was more one of cautious optimism. People see the opportunity in front of them but are unsure if the region, and its various decision makers, have the

vision and audacity to get there. Because of this, when thinking about what Perth will look like in 2050, 68 percent of residents see themselves still living there, while the remainder are either unsure or feel it would be highly unlikely.

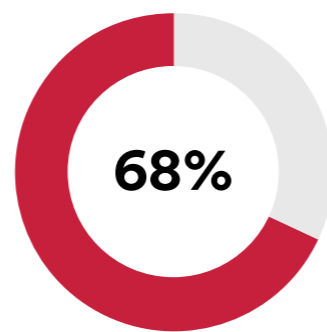
Perth residents that are excited and optimistic about the future



Residents that feel Perth is prepared for 2050



Perth residents that see themselves living in Perth in 2050



Looking toward 2050, residents shared their hopes and fears for Perth's future. These can be distilled into ten priorities for the future of Perth.

|    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 01 | Decarbonisation and the desire for sustainability |  |
| 02 | Urban sprawl and density with identity            |  |
| 03 | Reimagined infrastructure and transport           |  |
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These hopes and concerns paint a clear picture of how residents see the future, wanting Perth to evolve into a globally competitive city while holding onto what makes it special.



Perth is the best kept secret and a lot of people like keeping it that way. But it's time we lifted the lid on our great city. It's time to make Perth no longer a secret.

- Industry focus group participant





## 01 Decarbonisation and the desire for sustainability



Perth's renowned lifestyle and outdoor appeal are closely tied to its unique climate, hence why when asked about residents' satisfaction with life in Perth today, the top two rated items were its beaches and coastal lifestyle (87%) and the recreational spaces on offer (76%).

With much of what residents and tourists love about Perth relying on its climate, it is important to address the elephant in the room, which is that much like the rest of the country, Perth is experiencing the intensifying impacts of climate change.

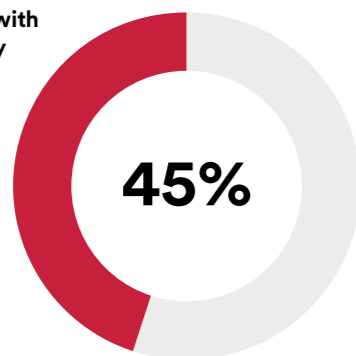
Temperatures across the state have increased by around 1.3 °C since 1910 and Perth is predicted to get hotter over the coming decades. By 2050, it is expected Perth's climate will be more like that in Jurien, with twice as many days above 35 °C in summer. The impact of climate change won't only be limited to hotter days and more volatile weather patterns. It will impact everything from agricultural supply chains to health care funding.

For example, between now and 2050, heat-related deaths across Western Australia are projected to increase by 61 percent. This would see hospitals experience a 34 percent increase in admissions due to heat-related events, costing the system more than \$30 million.

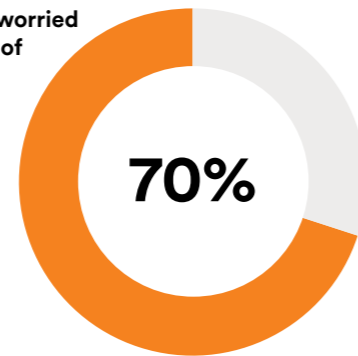
Residents are very much aware of the threat presented by climate change, with less than half satisfied with existing sustainability measures.

Environmental sustainability is a clear priority for the community. And when thinking about life in 2050, the environment is the thing they are most worried about.

Residents satisfied with Perth's sustainability measures



Residents' most worried about the future of the environment



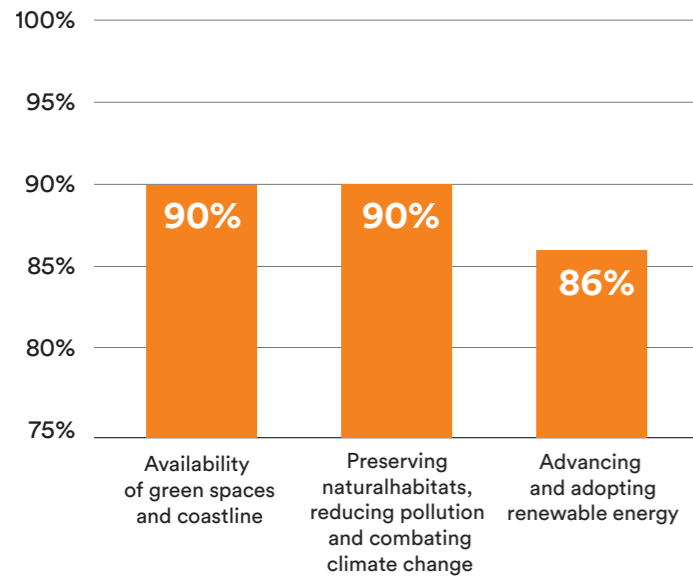
If we don't act, Perth will become unliveable. If we want to preserve the things we like about our way of life, there is a need to invest in cleaner forms of energy. But if we can decarbonise Western Australia, we can decarbonise the world.

- Professor Peta Ashworth OAM, Director at Curtin Institute for Energy Transition



Decarbonisation and the desire for sustainability

Importance in planning for Perth in 2050



Perth residents see sustainability at the heart of planning for 2050, from maintaining the availability of green spaces, to reducing pollution, combating climate change, and adopting renewable energy.

Western Australia currently has some of the lowest levels of renewable energy consumption in the country, so there is a long way to go. However, many believe that the region's natural environment holds untapped potential, and if leveraged, could supercharge the transition.

Perth is Australia's sunniest capital, making it ideal for solar energy production. And as the third windiest city in the world, there is a clear opportunity for wind power too. Plus, its coastal location could see the region lead in sea-based carbon capture and create a coastal greenbelt to protect its shorelines.

Decarbonisation and the desire for sustainability

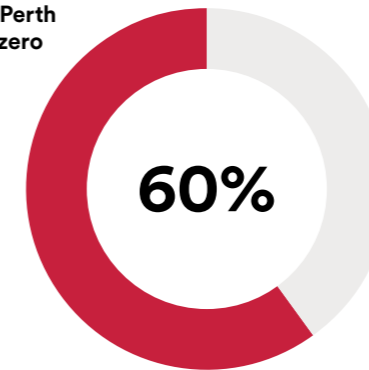
Although Perth is well-placed to capitalise on the transition, residents feel things are not moving fast enough. Only 60 percent of Perth residents surveyed believe the State Government's target of net zero emissions by 2050 will actually be met.

With all of this potential, Perth needs a clear vision and plan — one outlining the green energy transition and with social licence. It is also important that such a plan factors in energy security as part of the transition. Because it will take a significant amount of solar and wind to replace all carbon-generated power, a transition some experts suggest could take decades. Otherwise, if it were to happen too quickly, it could result in frequent blackouts and skyrocketing energy costs.

Green spaces need to be designed not only for recreation but as vital parts of suburbs, supporting biodiversity, air quality and wellbeing. The urban tree canopy will play a major role in this, with residents expressing the need for more trees to provide shade and protection from the sun. Currently, Perth has one of the lowest tree canopy covers in Australia, with only 22 percent of residents living in areas with at least 20 percent tree coverage. To this end, the Western Australia Government is developing an urban greening strategy to help make the Perth region greener, cooler and more liveable for future generations. Residents will be keeping a keen eye on how this strategy progresses, especially as the region faces higher temperatures and more intense heat waves.

When looking toward 2050, the challenge will be how Perth balances the need to address climate change and protect its biodiversity alongside the region's projected expansion, population growth and climate resilience. Perth's future success will depend on its ability to adapt to climate challenges while prioritising sustainability, ensuring the region remains liveable, resilient, and rich in natural beauty for generations to come.

Confidence in Perth becoming net zero by 2050



The focus on sustainability and the environment was a particular priority for Perth high school students. They expressed frustration at what they felt was largely paying lip service, or offering 'bandaid solutions' rather than fixing the problem at the root cause. Collectively, they feel governments and industry need to shift from a mindset of capital growth to sustainable growth, which could result in short-term economic pain but yield a longer-term benefit.

A greener future is not just about alternative energy sources. It is also about the green environment. Perth's approach to green spaces, urban agriculture, renewable energy and climate resilience will determine its ability to thrive in a changing climate.

**Decision makers today won't be around to really see the consequences of their actions or inaction. But we will. And so, we should be more involved in what gets done about it.** - High school student, age 15

**I would like less emphasis on growth and more emphasis on sustainability.**

- Survey respondent

**I hope that we will be living in a cooler, greener Perth with a lot more urban canopy than we currently have.**

- Survey respondent



**I hope Perth can lead the way in renewable resources and give our children a chance for the future.**

- Survey respondent



# 02 Urban sprawl and density with identity

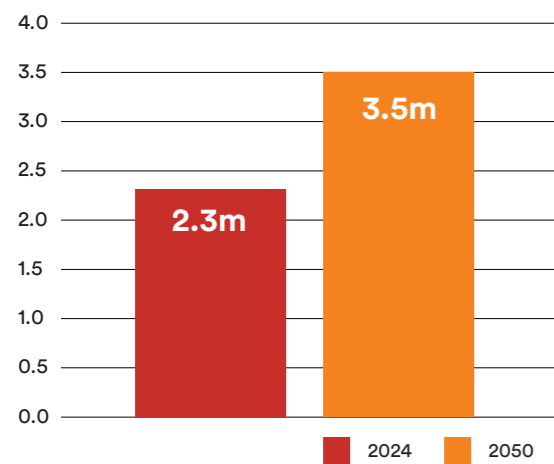


Perth's population is expected to increase more than 50 percent by 2050. Many residents would like to see this managed through thoughtful urban planning and housing density, with 48 percent expressing the need for Perth to have more high-density housing, up from 36 percent in 2021.

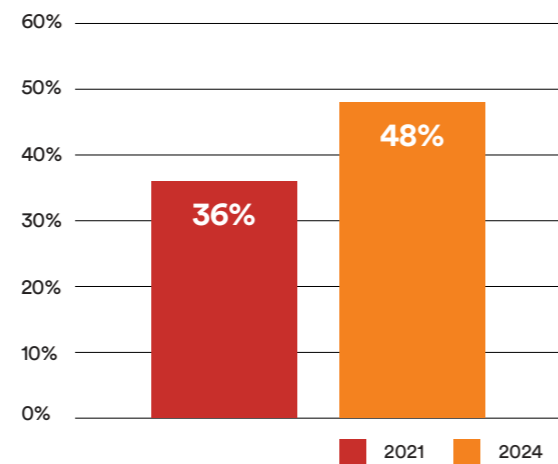
Perth is already the longest city in the world, with the population spread across suburban areas, unlike other capital cities where more people are concentrated in high-density inner-city and city fringe areas. For example, there are 3.4 people per square kilometre living in inner Sydney, and 3 in inner Melbourne, for every person living in inner Perth.

As the population grows in Perth, residents have indicated they want the natural environment preserved and more infill development created. This would mean increasing the number of homes within the existing corridor as well as more apartments, rather than expanding it further, to help overcome the existing urban sprawl.

Perth's population growth: 2024 vs 2050

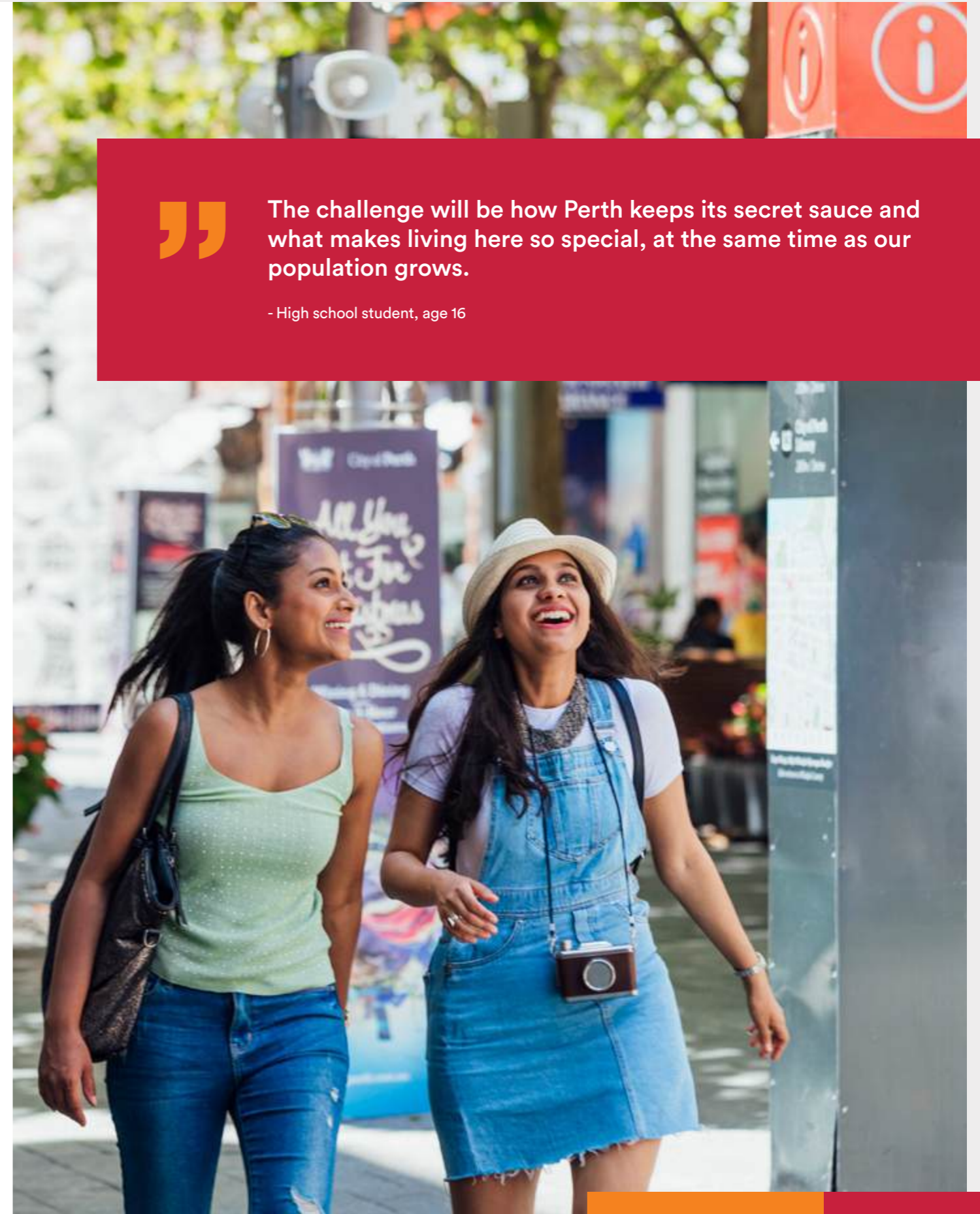


The need for more high-density housing



The challenge will be how Perth keeps its secret sauce and what makes living here so special, at the same time as our population grows.

- High school student, age 16







While residents acknowledge the urban sprawl offers some liveability benefits, like bigger blocks of land with driveways to park the car and backyards for kids to play, they feel it has also been to the region's detriment. For example, it has seen Perth become a city known for its car dependence, which increases traffic congestion and transport emissions.

Greater density and mixed-use assets would result in a concentration of diverse amenities increasing the likelihood of becoming a 15 minute city by 2050, where residents can access most of their daily needs—such as work, shopping, healthcare and leisure — within a 15 minute walk or bike ride from home.

”

I hope that Perth expands its green spaces and limits urban sprawl by building more connected, higher density, liveable communities.

- Survey respondent

”

I hope that Perth shakes off its dull, dormant suburban existence and builds a vibrant, active, diverse, city of creativity and vitality.

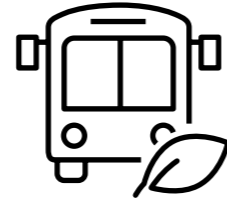
- Survey respondent

There's also an opportunity for more mixed-use developments integrating residential, commercial and recreational spaces, similar to the 1.2 hectare [Murdoch Square](#). Formally opened in July 2024, the \$450 million project includes a purpose-built medi-hotel, aged-care facility, commercial and retail outlets as well as residential accommodation.

While residents are worried about the continued urban sprawl, they are hopeful a thoughtful approach to housing density will see that as the population grows, people are brought together rather than spread further apart.



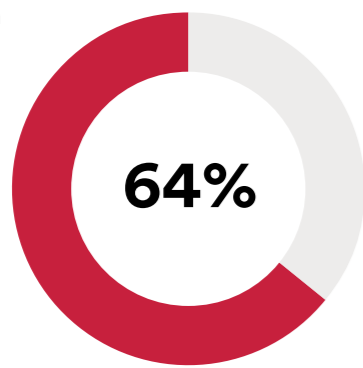
## 03 Reimagined infrastructure and transport



In the post-World War II era, low-density suburban growth went through the roof in Perth. The urban sprawl in turn led to the mass adoption of cars so people could get around. To address Perth's rising dependence on carbon-emitting and increasingly expensive car travel, the government boosted investment in the public transport network.

While almost two thirds of residents are satisfied with public transport today, many expressed concerns about Perth's infrastructure and public transport systems, doubting whether they'll be able to keep up with the anticipated population growth. Without serious improvements, residents fear Perth will remain car-dependent, leading to greater traffic congestion, longer commute times and reduced accessibility for those in outer suburbs.

Satisfaction with  
public transport  
in Perth today



**I hope Perth's public transport network improves to keep up with population growth and becomes the preferred method of transport for more people.**

- Survey respondent

Perth's existing public transport network is being upgraded through the METRONET project, which once complete will have added approximately 72 kilometres of track and a further 23 new stations to the network. METRONET will be integral to enabling greater density and infill development in Perth and reducing its reliance on cars, paving the way for more vibrant communities. Residents surveyed also said they would like to see more active transport options, such as cycle paths and footpaths, and potentially even a light rail network to service densely populated communities.



**METRONET is less about transport and more about the communities around it, delivering lasting generational impact.**

- Louise Giolitto, CEO at the Western Australian Council of Social Service (WACOSS)



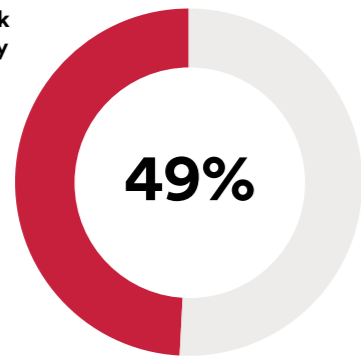
## Reimagined infrastructure and transport

Beyond METRONET, another mode of transport that residents aren't talking about as much, but which could experience a notable transformation, is the existing ferry network. In line with calls to better activate the Swan River foreshore, the Western Australia Government is currently exploring options for an expanded fleet to service new stops from Applecross to Optus Stadium. By 2050, the expanded ferry network could see the emergence of thriving precincts around ferry terminals, support efforts to reduce road

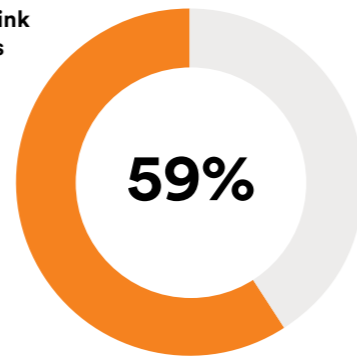
congestion, and offer a scenic way to enjoy Perth's waterways for locals and tourists alike.

When looking to 2050, Perth's transport ecosystem will have evolved from where it is today. It won't just be about trains and ferries either. Electric vehicles and buses will be the new normal, significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions. And there will likely be two new additions to how people get around, though not on the ground but in the sky.

Residents who think flying cars are likely in Perth by 2050



Residents who think supersonic flights is likely in Perth by 2050



## Reimagined infrastructure and transport

When it comes to air travel in 2050, only 49 percent and 59 percent of residents respectively, think the region will have flying cars and supersonic flight, which they are potentially underestimating. For example, international air mobility company Wisk is working towards having driverless flying taxis operational in Brisbane within the next decade, while a US-based company, Boom Supersonic, is looking to debut their supersonic passenger jet, Overdue, in 2029. So, it is likely that both will exist by 2050, accompanied by more drones zipping through the sky as they commonly deliver goods on-demand.

Another critical infrastructure project that will have a significant impact on the region by 2050 is the Western Trade Coast (WTC) industrial area. Located 30 minutes south of the Perth CBD, the WTC is one of the fastest growing industrial zones in Australia, yet many Perth residents are not very familiar with it. The WTC covers over 5,000 hectares of industrial and defence facilities from Munster to Rockingham, which includes the Kwinana Industry Zone. With direct links to air, sea, road and rail networks, the WTC is expected to drive diversified economic development, future industries, new technologies and jobs growth for the region.

The WTC will be supercharged by the opening of the new container port at Kwinana, Westport, which is set to become operational around 2042. As the WTC evolves, it will attract a skilled workforce for high-tech roles, bolstering employment in clean energy, robotics, and advanced materials. For Perth, this could mean an economic boom, a skilled jobs market, and a meaningful role in the region's defence and trade networks. It could also see more high-skilled, high-income, locally based roles, potentially making it more challenging for mining companies to attract talent on FIFO rosters.

The WTC will not only support diverse industries but also spark a demand for new housing developments and community infrastructure nearby, catering to an influx of skilled workers and their families. Plus, as the main port transitions from Fremantle to Kwinana, the former has a unique opportunity to redefine its identity beyond its traditional role as a port city. For example, it has the potential to evolve into a dynamic entrepreneurial hub that blends its vibrant creative culture with a focus on technology and innovation.

By 2050, residents hope Perth is a region defined by a technology-enabled, sustainable transport network, paving the way for connected and accessible communities, supported by practical, people-centred infrastructure.





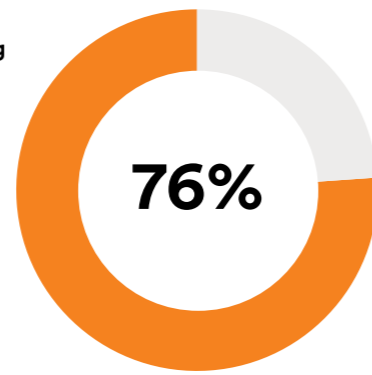
## 04 Housing affordability and availability



Perth slipped a few places in the latest Economist Intelligence Unit Global Liveability Index, with housing affordability one of the key reasons as to why.

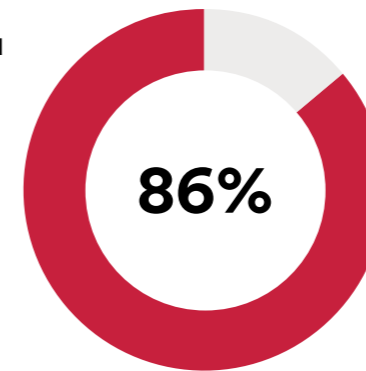
Today, the average house price in Perth is \$816,000. Despite being well below the national average, 76 percent of Perth residents still find the housing market unaffordable. It is not just buying a home either, but renting too, with the Perth rental vacancy rate at 1.6 percent. Because of the limited number of rental properties available, Perth's median weekly rental price has increased more than any Australian capital city over the last year. So unsurprisingly, residents are least satisfied with the availability and affordability of housing than any other aspect of life in Perth, which is something particularly felt by Perth students and renters.

Residents that find the housing market unaffordable



Rising housing costs present a major challenge for Perth's residents, with fears the city could become unaffordable for them. Families and young adults worry about being priced out of the housing market, while business leaders feel it could fuel economic instability and impact the ability to attract skilled workers to the region. And so, when designing for Perth in 2050, 86 percent of residents believe the availability and affordability of housing is critical.

Importance of availability and affordability of housing for 2050



A range of measures can be considered to address this. Some residents suggested investing in affordable housing projects and making better use of existing land through high-density developments, while others cited the need to address rising construction costs. Another lever is to address housing supply, which would involve looking at how houses are built and the materials they use. To increase supply, Perth would need to move beyond its strong preference for 'bricks and mortar' dwellings. For context, 76 percent of new dwellings are built using single or double brick in Western Australia, the next highest is New South Wales at 12 percent. In using alternative methods and materials, there is the potential to consider 3D printing, similar to what is being explored in Germany to ramp up the supply and production time to build new homes.

When looking to 2050, residents hope for accessible and affordable housing to meet the needs of all income levels and allow diverse communities to not just coexist, but thrive. This aspiration reflects a commitment to preserving Perth's character as a welcoming and inclusive city, where everyone can affordably live in Perth and make the most of what it has to offer.



I hope we can get a handle on our housing choices. Currently we have too many single homes with double garages in place of units closer to the city. This becomes a serious issue and reduces liveability.

- Survey respondent



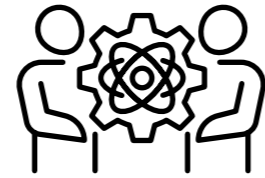
In the future, I hope that my children can afford to buy a home here.

- Survey respondent



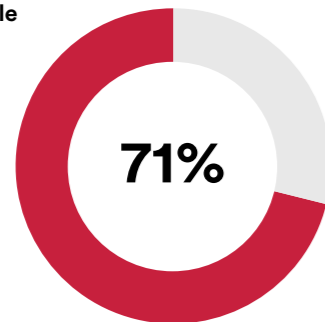


## 05 Adopting technology while maintaining humanity



Most Perth residents are excited about the role of technology and the way it will shape how they live, work and play in 2050, with younger residents the most optimistic.

Excited about the role of technology in how we will live, work, and play in Perth in 2050

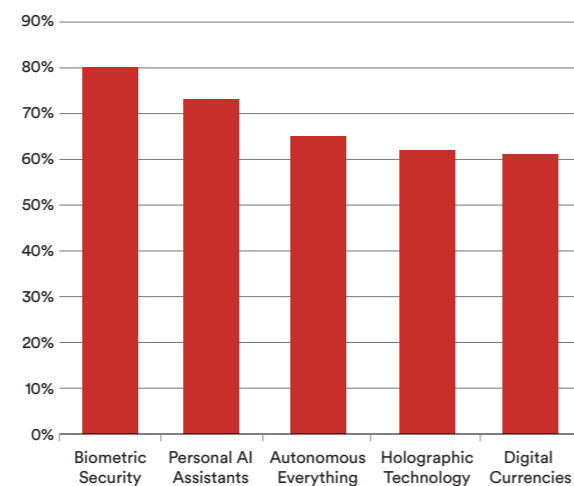


The use of AI for daily tasks will be integrated into all parts of our lives, from smart homes to cars and the workplace.

- Survey respondent

When it comes to emerging technologies, residents believe biometric security - the systems that use data like retina (eye) scans, facial recognition and DNA being used to identify people - will be most adopted by 2050. Many feel life administration will be streamlined with the widespread use of personal AI assistants to manage daily tasks and provide companionship, while driverless technology will be everywhere, from self-driving cars to autonomous robot warehouses. Residents surveyed also believe holographic technology and digital currencies, will become the norm and play a bigger part in daily life.

Residents view on most common technologies adopted by 2050



When it comes to what technology is adopted and how it is used, residents have a range of different concerns. Some worry too much technology could leave people feeling isolated, with more time spent in virtual worlds and less physical human interaction. Others are uneasy about privacy, fearing as AI and security technology grow, their personal lives might feel more monitored. Some see the rapid adoption of automation and AI displacing jobs, which will be more acutely felt by low-skilled workers who will need to retrain and find new types of work. While it is unlikely something like Universal Basic Income will be in place in 2050, it could be starting to gain interest with Perth residents.

Others are also worried about a growing digital divide, where many benefit from the adoption of technology while others are left behind. This sentiment is supported by data from the recent [Australian Digital Inclusion Index](#), where the gap is increasing between younger and older Australians, as well as other factors like education and income. And if not addressed, it could see segments of the population excluded from the economic and social benefits of the new economy.

While Perth residents are largely excited about the opportunities afforded by technology, many significantly underestimate the impact it will have, with fewer than two thirds believing it will be important to embrace technologies like AI, and robotics for the future of Perth.

There is no doubt technology will redefine how residents will live, work and play in 2050, from automating routine tasks to connecting and enabling Perth residents to engage and collaborate with others from around the world. AI will enhance decision-making, virtual reality (VR) will offer immersive learning experiences, and blockchain will provide secure, transparent platforms for transactions and data sharing. The challenge will be how Perth can enjoy the benefits of these technologies while keeping a strong sense of community, protecting people's privacy, and making sure everyone has the skills and opportunities to thrive.

To realise the benefits of technology while addressing resident concerns, the region will need to consider investing in digital skills training, setting clear privacy protections, creating new job pathways in tech, and ensuring access to affordable high-speed internet. This will help empower residents to engage with emerging technologies so that they can fully participate in Perth's increasingly digitised economy.

I hope that technology makes our lives easier and more efficient, without sacrificing human connection.

- Survey respondent



The increased reliance on technology, alongside an emphasis on virtual realities and AI, will leave us more disconnected from each other as humans. I wonder if this lack of deep, in-person connection and community will exacerbate physical and mental health conditions.

- Survey respondent





06

## Beyond mining and toward economic diversification



“ I hope by 2050 that Perth transitions from being a mining dependent city to a diverse economy.

- Survey respondent

Perth has a stable and resilient economy, making it a sought-after place to work and do business. This is largely due to the mining and resources sector, which supports three in ten jobs across the state and accounts for nine percent of the nation's GDP. It is also integral to why Western Australia's domestic economy is growing at twice the rate of the national economy.

“ Economic diversification is important and already underway. But we need to remember that there is still a big future in mining.

- Rebecca Tomkinson, CEO at The Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia (CME)

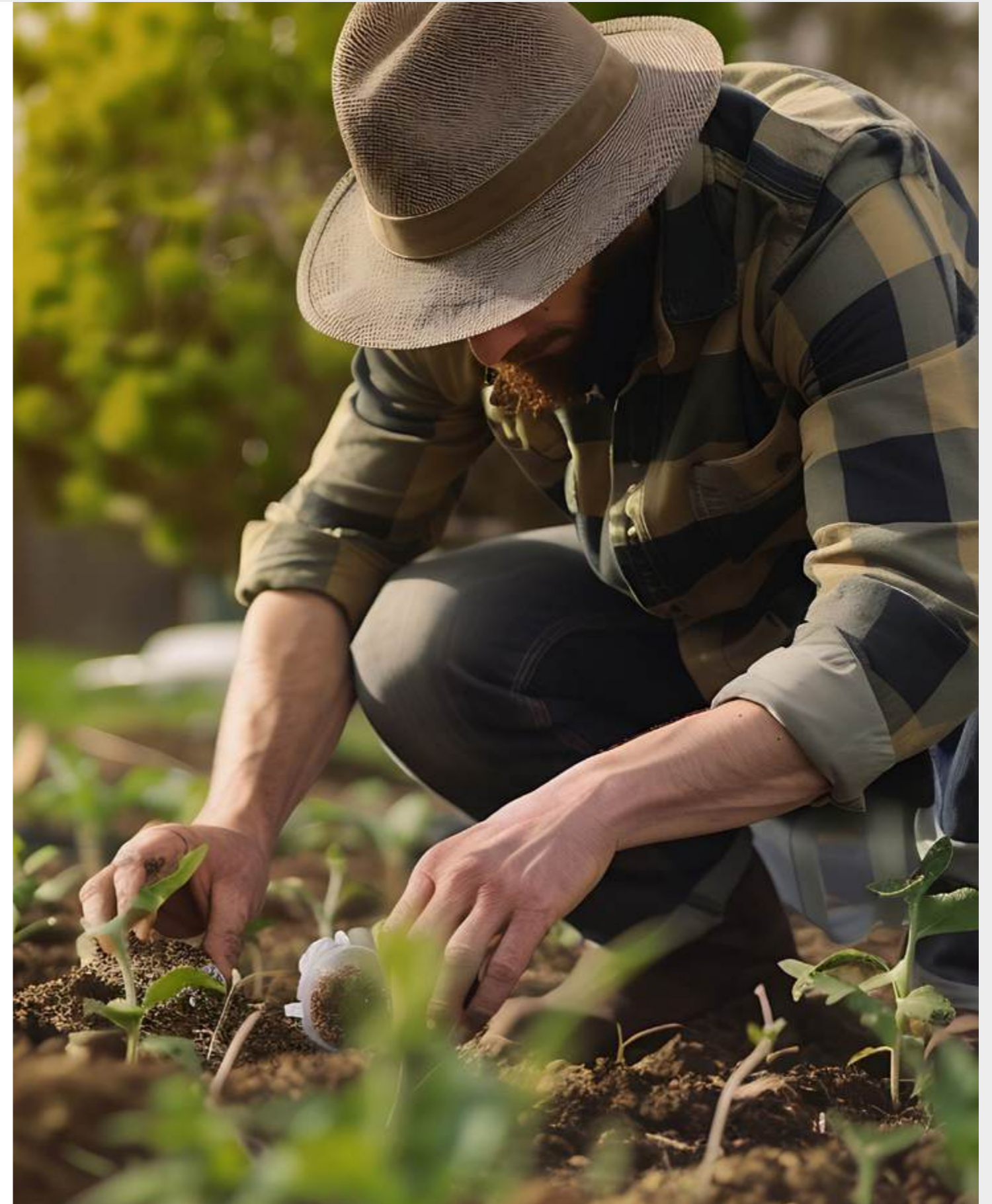
**There will be more investment needed over the next decade than there was in the previous two in order to drive the electrification agenda.**

- Professor Peter Klinken AC,  
Western Australia Chief Scientist

However, residents are conscious of Perth's extended reliance on the mining and resources sector. For example, the need to cut carbon emissions is redefining investment activity, and as countries move towards renewable energy, many residents are concerned the region has become too reliant on a simplistic “dig and ship” model.

Some business leaders are also worried the mining industry has resulted in Western Australia's economy becoming too dependent on China. 51 percent of the state's overall exports consist of iron ore and approximately 85 percent is exported to China. This highlights a major vulnerability should there be a breakdown in international relations, increased trade tariffs on Chinese products or a slowdown in the Chinese economy.

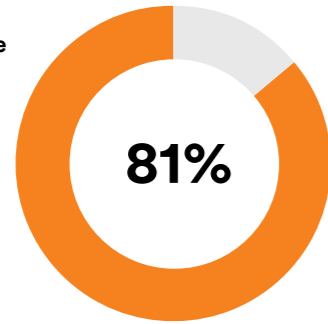
When looking out to 2050, mining will continue to be a core pillar of the Western Australia economy. A big reason is the state has a lot of the critical minerals needed to provide the infrastructure required to support global decarbonisation efforts and a shift towards renewables.





Because of this, a majority of residents and a large number of business leaders would like to see a more diverse economy, one that drives further investment and trade activity, builds economic resilience and delivers secure and quality jobs. To this end, when looking toward 2050, Perth residents believe mining will drop from being the dominant industry today, to fourth. They believe evolving industries like sustainable resources and environmental management, health and longevity, and agriculture and food production will be greater in terms of size and economic contribution.

Importance of new industries for a more diverse economy in 2050



Residents are particularly excited to become a clean energy powerhouse, playing a key role in supporting countries around the world to decarbonise. Doing so would harness Perth's advanced manufacturing and heavy engineering capabilities alongside the state's abundance of natural resources to unlock targeted opportunities in renewables and the green energy transition.

### Predictions on the biggest industries in 2050

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | Sustainable Resources and Environmental Management |
| 2 | Health and Longevity                               |
| 3 | Agriculture and Food Production                    |
| 4 | Mining and Resources                               |
| 5 | Education and Human Development                    |

There are other sectors set to play a major role in Perth's economy by 2050, many of which residents may not yet be aware of, or even considering, such as space industries. Western Australia has more than 60 years' experience in the space industry and its geographic location, dry environmental conditions, radio quiet zones and clear skies provide an attractive setting for major space projects. The industry is already involved in a range of space operations and is home to more than 100 international and Australian organisations operating space and space-related services. This positions Perth with an opportunity to become a global leader in space research, satellite manufacturing, orbital debris removal, and space tourism, as well as an international hub for space resource extraction.

Another growing industry for the region will be defence. With Perth destined for a critical role in AUKUS, the region will become a key hub for naval operations in the region. This will result in the UK and US co-locating military personnel and assets at the Garden Island naval hub to enhance regional security and support advanced submarine development. AUKUS will not only create an influx of new residents to the region, but it will also create many new job opportunities in the area and boost the local economy.



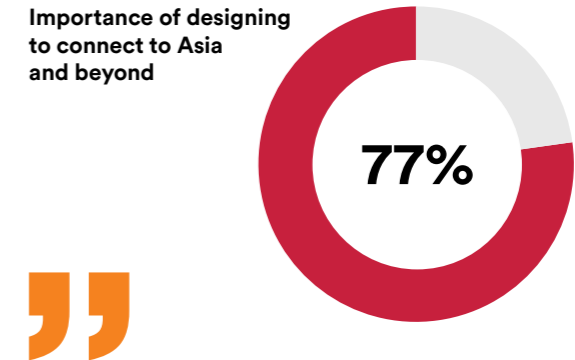
It's bigger than people realise – AUKUS will bring 700 US personnel to the region in addition to hundreds more Australian personnel. The US presence alone will create an additional 1200 jobs in the supply chain and a consumption effect that's worth \$1.1 billion to the region annually.

- Professor Peter Klinken AC,  
Western Australia Chief Scientist

Beyond the likes of space and defence, Perth's economy will also be shaped by industries that do not exist yet, driven by technological advancements, scientific breakthroughs and community need. For example, in 2050, Perth could potentially lead innovations in ocean resource management, leveraging its coastal assets and scientific capabilities to pioneer sustainable aquaculture and offshore renewable energy.

By embracing the new economy, Perth has the potential to strengthen its position in the global economy, with more than three quarters of residents believing in designing a future where Perth is connected to Asia and beyond. Perth is situated in the world's most populated time zone, which is shared by 60 percent of the world's population (+/- 2 hours), including, India, Indonesia, China, Japan and Singapore. Due to its geographic proximity, Perth is also the logical entry point from Asia into Australia - an opportunity with uncapped potential. For example, Perth has proven that it is able to attract organisations to establish their regional headquarters in the city over the likes of Singapore or Sydney, but it is far from being fully realised.

Importance of designing to connect to Asia and beyond



Perth is in a geographically strategic location, close to Indonesia, Singapore, Japan, China and South Korea. I hope Perth can take advantage of this.

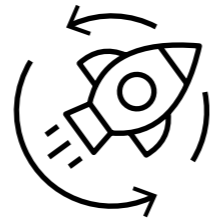
- Survey respondent

The economy will also be shaped by international trade and industrial partnerships. Moving forward, it is more likely Perth will focus on growing relationships with India and Indonesia, which are set to become the third and fifth largest global economies by 2050 respectively. And by the year 2050, Perth might also look west to Africa to help supercharge its digital agenda, with African nations investing heavily in technology-related skills across their population.

While resources may have been the previous chapter of Perth's history, the next will be defined by what the region does with those resources. This leaves Perth at an inflection point, on the brink of an economic transformation as it looks to continue leveraging its unique strengths while diversifying the economy and accelerating the growth of emerging and in-demand industries. For many, this transition is about positioning Perth as a city of possibilities and new industries, ready to meet the future with a solid economic foundation.

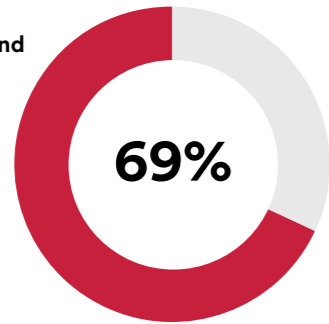


## 07 Transforming work for the new economy



In order to realise its economic ambition, Perth needs skilled workers to make it happen. And while 69 percent of residents are satisfied with the availability of work and jobs on offer, they acknowledge that this could change in line with market forces and social factors.

Satisfaction with availability of jobs and work in Perth today



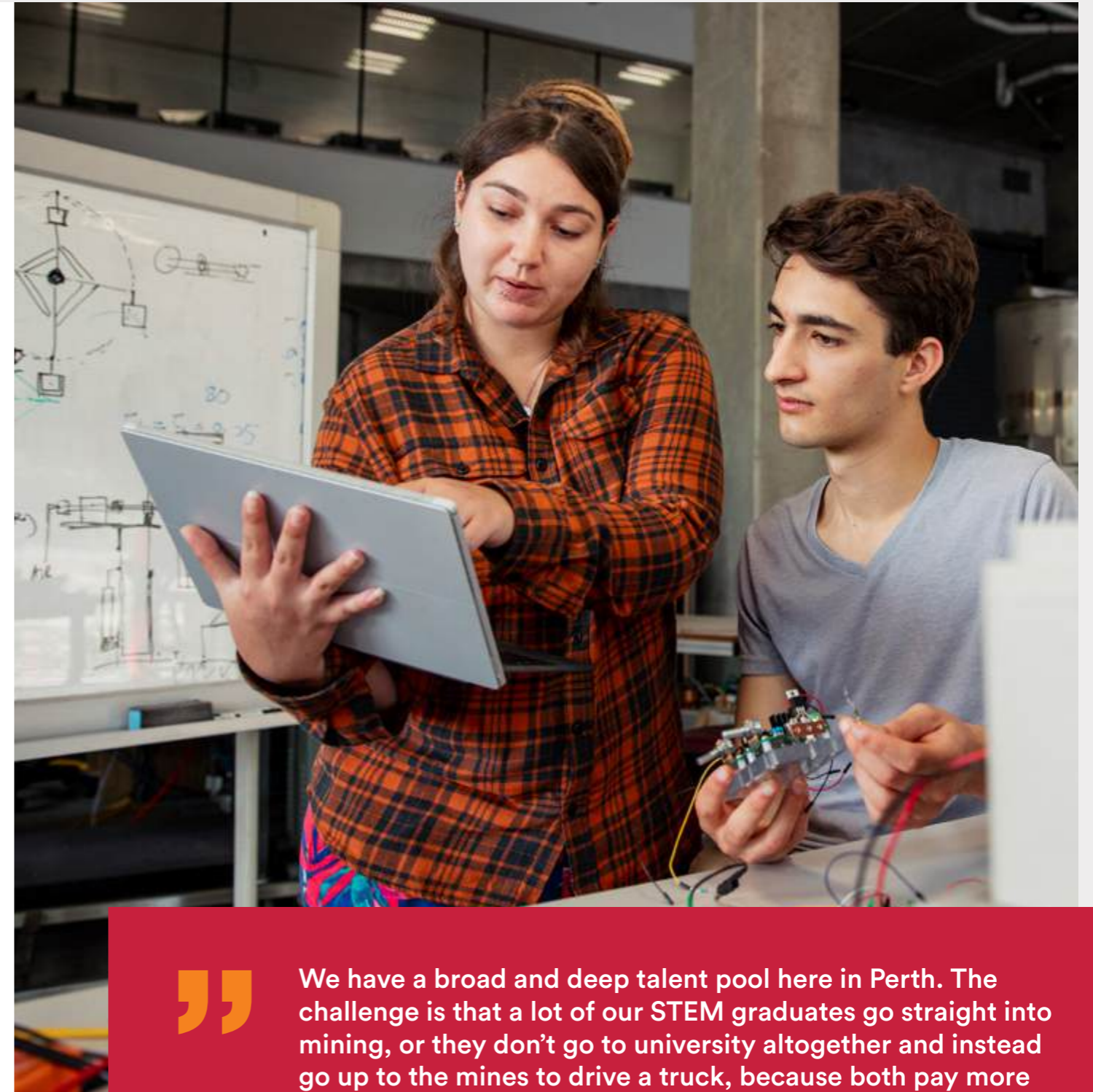
It is no secret that Australia has an ageing population. Because of this, the share of working age Australians will drop from around 65 percent today to under 61 percent in 2050. This anticipated drop is the result of a sizable increase in the number of Australians aged 65 and older, who are expected to account for around one quarter of all Australians by 2050. Because of this, the region will need to rely on skilled migration to ensure there are enough workers.

Another way to tackle worker shortages is by using AI and automation. Although AI and automation are often seen as threats to jobs, they could help industries manage with fewer workers. These technologies can take on repetitive tasks,

allowing the existing workforce to focus on more complex work, which helps fill the gaps left by not having enough available workers.

When looking at the ageing population, it is worth noting that Perth residents will be working longer in the future. Currently, the average Perth resident retires at 66. However, factors like the cost of living, a rise in aged pension eligibility, the advent of life extension technologies and the shift from manual to knowledge work, will see more Perth residents rethinking what retirement looks like and working longer in their careers.

Regarding the current labour market, business leaders reported specific shortages in STEM workers. A major reason is that there are not enough people studying STEM-related disciplines. For example, over the coming years, approximately 75 percent of new jobs in Australia require STEM skills, but only 36 percent of 14-to-17-year-olds want a career in STEM. The other challenge, as reported by industry, is to do with the existing pipeline of STEM talent. It is said that while there are talented and skilled graduates coming through Perth's higher education institutions, they reportedly tend to default to mining where they can attract a higher salary, which means other industries can struggle and shoulder the impact.

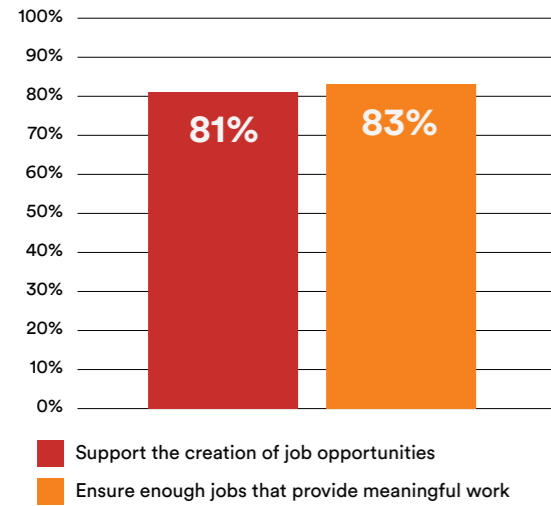


We have a broad and deep talent pool here in Perth. The challenge is that a lot of our STEM graduates go straight into mining, or they don't go to university altogether and instead go up to the mines to drive a truck, because both pay more than the alternative. While this works in the short term, it is doing a disservice to the critical industries of the future.

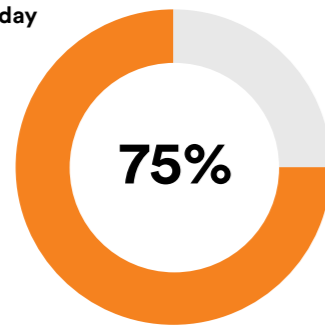
- Industry focus group participant



### When designing for 2050, it is important to...



### Likelihood of a four-day work week by 2050



To help address worker shortages, organisations are looking to attract skilled workers to the region. But they are finding it challenging due to factors like Perth's perceived remote location, car dependency, and high living costs. This means that when planning for the future of Perth, talent attraction can't be looked at in isolation of liveability.

When looking toward 2050, Perth residents support a strong focus on carefully designing an economy that supports the creation of job opportunities that provide meaningful work. Residents also acknowledge that over this period, the nature of work and jobs will also undergo a significant transformation.

For example, jobs will be less static, evolving at a much faster rate than today, which will require workers to continually adapt what they do and how they do it. A big focus in the future of work will also be flexibility and lifestyle. To this end, there is the potential that, by 2050, Perth residents will enjoy a four-day work week.

The business community believes that an increase in flexible and remote work models alongside the pursuit of lifestyle affords Perth the opportunity to position itself as a hotspot for entrepreneurs, attracting some of the best and brightest to the region to disrupt, create and innovate.



**I would like to see Perth transition away from a reliance on mining industries and foster a more robust technology sector so that we can create a more welcoming environment for global entrepreneurs to immigrate to Perth.**

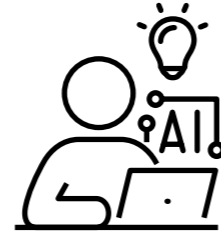
- Survey respondent

With the right infrastructure, regulation and investment, the region could become a vibrant start-up hub. To make it happen, Perth needs to make the most of its expanding venture capital scene. This would accelerate Perth's start-up ecosystem, draw in talent, and position the region as a gateway for start-ups entering Asian markets. Unlocking Perth's economic potential will need a vision to attract talent, build a flexible workforce, and support entrepreneurship. This will help create a thriving, competitive Perth for the future.



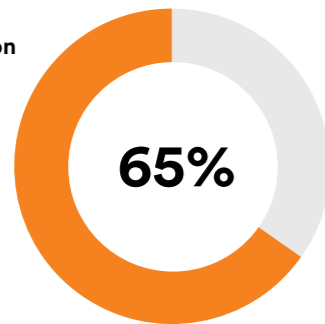


## 08 Skills and educating tomorrow's workforce



To create a skilled workforce for the future, Perth needs to make sure today's students and workers have the knowledge and flexibility needed for tomorrow's changing industries. According to the World Economic Forum, 65 percent of students entering primary school today will eventually work in jobs that do not currently exist. This illustrates that as the nature of work evolves, the education system needs to evolve with it.

Satisfaction with the current education system



When it comes to the current education system, just under two thirds of Perth residents are satisfied with it. While they value access to public education and the quality of teachers, it is felt there is not enough done to address teacher shortages. In addition, business leaders are concerned about the lack of investment in future skills to prepare students and workers for the new economy. To this end, when looking to 2050, a resounding 90 percent of people believe in the importance of designing an education system that ensures children and adults have the skills they need to succeed.

To thrive and not just survive in the new world of work, Perth residents will need to significantly build their AI-literacy as well as their familiarity with other emerging technologies. When it comes to Perth high school students, they said they have largely needed to teach themselves these skills. And while they were optimistic about the opportunities presented by technology, they were worried adults are presenting a cynical and risk-averse narrative. This highlights a potential need to not just uplift practical education in AI and digital citizenship for students, but also to provide resources for parents.



**The current education system is 150 years old and not much has changed in the scheme of things.**

- Professor Peter Klinken AC,  
Western Australia Chief Scientist



**I want to do something in the creative arts when I finish school. But my parents have said that because of technology, it's not a good career choice. I actually think technology will only make creative industries more important, but I guess I'll just end up doing something like commerce.**

- High school student, age 16



Beyond imparting their perspectives and fears about AI, parents are also understandably having a lot of influence over their child's career choices. However, only 28 percent of Australian parents said they are confident in giving their children career advice. Because of this, parents can often just recommend their child follow a similar path or otherwise choose a more conservative career, which can be felt to offer more security and stability. But as the world of work changes, this influence may no longer serve teenagers well, especially as more traditional professions like accounting and law, which have often been viewed as 'safe' careers, will be significantly disrupted by AI.

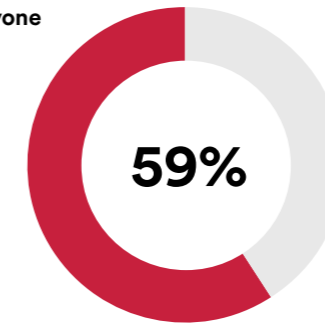


**Creatives will be highly sought after in the future as we increasingly seek connection. They will be key to bringing people together.**

- Rikki Lea Bestall, CEO, Screenwest

When it comes to the skills needed to succeed in the future of work, students and adults alike will need to build their AI literacy alongside developing core human skills such as problem solving, working in teams, emotional intelligence, and adaptability. Because the future of work will increasingly be about understanding how to use the available technology while bringing essential human skills that enhance and work alongside it. To this end, as the demand for STEM skills grows and so much of everyday life moves online, many believe that there will be a corresponding need for humanities. Because technology alone can't create the meaningful, personalised experiences that people will crave.

**Likelihood of everyone speaking a second language by 2050**



Another domain that will be increasingly important is Asian literacy, which will be integral to Perth capitalising on its social, political and economic relations with its northern neighbours. This is a big reason as to why over half of residents said they believe that, by 2050, everyone will speak a second language. However, the bilingual sentiment is one Perth residents have likely overshot. While migration will see Perth full of diverse ethnicities and languages, there will also be a potential decline in language education, with emerging technologies already offering instant language translation capabilities.

Beyond *what* is taught in schools, experts also foreshadowed changes in how students are taught, with remote collaboration technologies and alternative learning methods leading to the emergence of more non-traditional learning delivery models. For example, teacher shortages, advances in education technology and the democratisation of knowledge could lead to more students being homeschooled. The region might also see the establishment of more fully virtual schools, like Swan Online at Swan Christian College; four-day school weeks, like at Chevalier College in NSW; and blended models, where students spend part of their school week on campus and the rest learning from home, a studio, a workplace, or even in the metaverse. To build a resilient workforce for 2050, Perth's education system needs to adapt, and fast, ensuring students gain the skills and experiences needed to thrive in the new economy.



**I hope for a more equitable education system where nobody is disadvantaged by their circumstances, and everyone gets excellent opportunities that meet their individual needs.**

- Survey respondent



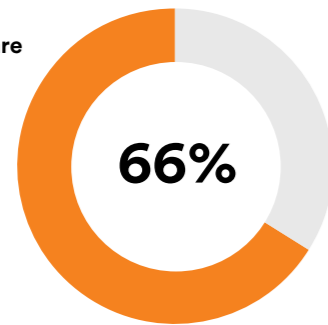


## 09 Ageing strong and living well



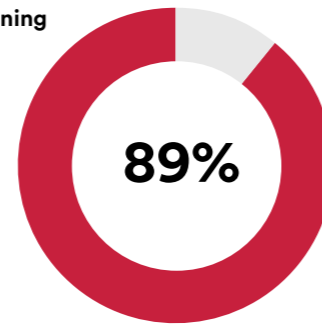
Perth's healthcare system will face growing pressure from rising rates of chronic illness and obesity, compounded by climate change impacts and increasing mental health challenges. Alongside these challenges, advancements in health technology and innovative care models offer a chance to reshape and elevate the healthcare system, creating a fit-for-purpose model that meets residents' expectations.

Satisfaction with the current healthcare system



While two thirds of Perth residents are satisfied with the quality of their current healthcare system, 89 percent believe in the importance of designing fit-for-purpose healthcare for 2050. At that point in time, virtual hospitals and remote care will likely be the new norm, reducing the need for residents to travel to access quality healthcare. The rise of genetic profiling and tailored medical plans will enable more individualised, preventative treatments for those who can afford them. AI-powered diagnostics will enhance the precision of medication and tailoring of care, while wearable technologies will play a much bigger part in how people look after their bodies.

Importance of designing fit-for-purpose healthcare for 2050

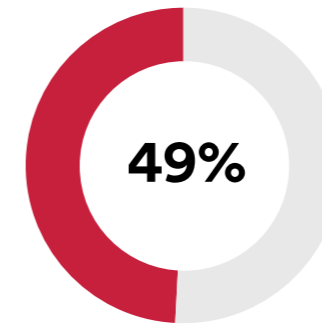


**A big question is how we can invest more in allied health services, mental health, and early intervention to minimise the rising costs of our health system.**

- Industry focus group participant

Another topic of interest for Perth residents is ageing. For example, it was noted that some scientists predict that the first person to reach 150 is already alive, and could be living in Perth. There is also the potential for new drugs aimed at slowing or even reversing ageing, with just under half of residents thinking by 2050, they will have access to life extension technologies, like cryogenic freezing, to bring people back to life.

Residents who think life extension technologies will exist in 2050



Perth residents are especially interested in how the region will handle an ageing population and longer lifespans, with a desire to rethink the traditional aged care model where people move into nursing homes.

Some have pointed to the potential of progressive aged care models like those seen in Denmark and the Netherlands, who are leading in the creation of 'co-living' spaces that are designed to build connections and reduce isolation. For example, Denmark's 'living villages' give seniors private apartments with shared spaces that encourage socialising and community. In the Netherlands, multi-generational communities bring older adults and younger residents together, where the latter help with tasks and offer companionship. These models, which emphasise community, independence, and dignity over isolated care, reflect Perth residents' desire to age in place.

A healthy, thriving Perth will require a healthcare system that not only adapts to the challenges of chronic illness and ageing, but also champions innovation and dignity in care to foster a vibrant, resilient community.

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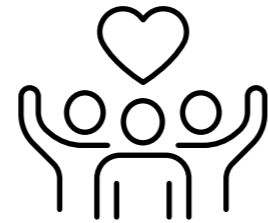
As a city, we are not set up to age in place. There is an opportunity for Perth to address this and be known as an ageing-friendly city.

- Industry focus group participant



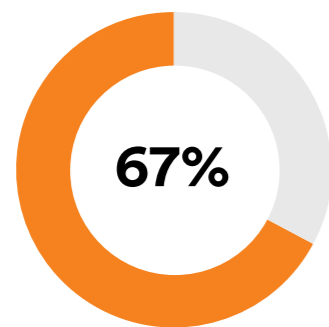


## 10 Building vibrant and inclusive communities



When designing Perth's future, it is important that the city is not only functional but a place where people enjoy living. A big part of that is the availability and breadth of cultural and entertainment activities, of which just over two thirds of residents are satisfied with today. But as more gets automated and goes online, people are worried about opportunities for connection, which could erode the soul of the city. It is why so many residents believe that arts, culture and entertainment should be at the heart of designing vibrant Perth communities.

Satisfaction with cultural and entertainment activities



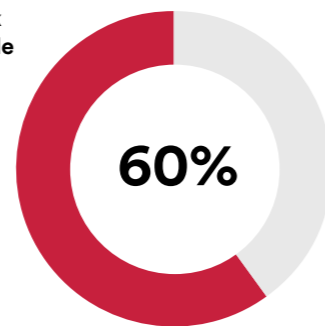
With more technology, people are going to want more opportunities to connect with their community, from outdoor dining to farmers markets and street artists. These sorts of things are what gives a city its vibe.

- Industry focus group participant

Residents want places and experiences that celebrate arts, culture, and heritage to attract tourists. There is a recognition amongst residents that their hobbies and leisure activities will change too.

Over the coming decades, entertainment and leisure activities in Perth will expand beyond traditional forms to include new, technology-enabled experiences. For example, virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) will reshape leisure time, with VR arcades, e-sports arenas and mixed-reality escape rooms likely to become popular destinations. Holograms and AR will help to bring cultural heritage sites to life, providing interactive experiences for both residents and tourists alike. Public spaces will also be transformed to accommodate new forms of entertainment, similar to the drone show that draws big crowds during Western Australia Day celebrations, as well as digital art installations and interactive public art, such as [Boorna Waanginy](#), the immersive 1.4 kilometre First Nations walk transforming Kings Park with light projection, sound, spoken word, and song.

Residents who think it is likely that people will live, work and play in virtual universes in 2020



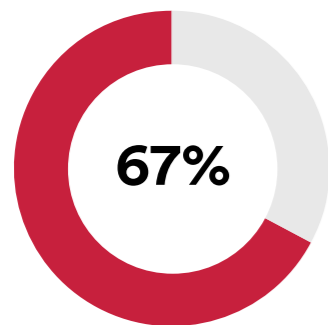


As much as vibrant communities are a priority for residents, they also want them to be safe and inclusive, where diversity is celebrated, and accessibility ensures everyone can share in the good things the region has to offer.

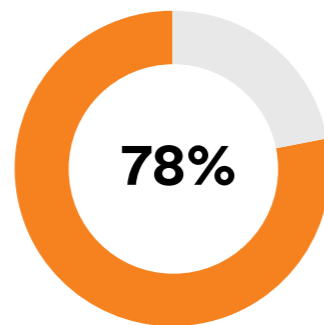
In Australia, the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is 1.5 births per woman, which is well below the replacement rate of 2.1. Based on historical trends, and without substantial social or policy changes, it is projected the TFR in 2050 will continue to decline to approximately 1.27 births per woman. So, like the rest of the country, a large part of Perth's population growth will be the result of people migrating from interstate and overseas, resulting in more diverse communities.

Not only will the region be defined by its diverse ethnicities, but by the way it celebrates and embraces its First Nations heritage as well. Perth is located on Whadjuk Noongar Boodja (country), with the Whadjuk people part of the world's oldest continuing living culture. Their ancient traditions, wisdom and way of life have been preserved for at least 65,000 years and residents see this as incredibly important for Perth's future.

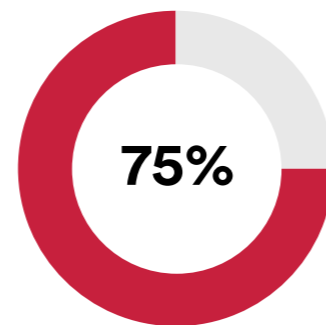
**Satisfaction with inclusivity and diversity of communities**



**Importance of designing inclusive communities with diverse cultures for 2050**



**Importance of maintaining connection to country and Aboriginal culture in 2050**



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**I hope for a diverse and inclusive Perth where everyone feels safe, and where everyone has the same opportunities regardless of age, gender, qualifications, or class.**

- Survey respondent

**Perth should be a place that celebrates all cultures and backgrounds, where diversity is part of our identity and where Aboriginal culture is visible and respected in everyday life.**

- Industry focus group participant

Participants in the study commonly expressed a desire for Perth to become a leader in Aboriginal identity and cultural significance, including naming streets and sites in dual language. For example, referring to the City of Perth by its Noongar name, Boorloo; and renaming of Lake Monger to Galup. It is also felt that there is an opportunity for more First Nations cultural experiences, which will be led by the flagship Aboriginal Cultural Centre that is expected to become a powerful symbol of truth telling, justice, healing, and reconciliation attracting Aboriginal people, visitors, tourists, and businesses.

Collectively, there was a strong sentiment in the need for genuine consultation with the region's First Nations people as part of planning for 2050, to leverage their knowledge, wisdom and experience in caring for community and country.

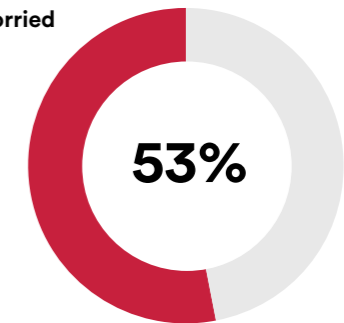
”

**We need to build humanity back into our story and be proud of that. It's not exactly complex territory. We just need to be reminded of who we are every now and then.**

- Jody Nunn, CEO at Reconciliation Western Australia

While residents are hopeful for inclusive and cohesive communities that celebrate diversity, there is a prevalent fear about inequality. So much so, when looking towards 2050, economic inequality placed second on the list of concerns among Perth residents, their worry is an increase in the divide between the 'haves' and 'have nots' in the community. For example, in the future, economic inequality could result in more advanced healthcare treatments, like access to life extending therapies or genetic modification technology, only available to the affluent.

**Residents' most worried about economic inequality in 2050**



”

**The widening wealth gap is already seeing more and more dual income households in Perth seeking food and emergency income relief.**

- Louise Giolitto, CEO at WACOSS

As Perth experiences significant population growth, residents are worried that dropping the ball on community cohesion could see a corresponding increase in incivility. Concerns around safety and security have residents worried about increased crime or strained social services, impacting the region's family-friendly environment.

Affordable housing can help reduce inequality, along with better access to quality public education and healthcare. Providing job training, supporting small businesses, and investing in public infrastructure will also create more economic opportunities and help narrow wealth gaps. By prioritising inclusivity and support for all residents, Perth can build a resilient, vibrant community that values diversity and offers equal access to opportunities for everyone.



Different visions, shared future:

# Hopes and fears across Perth's diverse communities

While there is a shared future for Perth, different groups within the community bring unique perspectives, shaped by their experiences, priorities, and challenges. From their general optimism for the future to the desire for affordable housing, each holds distinct hopes and fears as they look to 2050, offering valuable insights into the city's strengths and the areas that need attention.

A brief commentary outlining some of the differences across students and businesses, as well as across key demographic markers, is provided below. By understanding the nuances of the diverse perspectives offered across 1,421 respondents, Perth can work towards a future that honours the needs and ambitions of all its residents, creating a city where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

## STUDENTS

Students expressed lower satisfaction with housing availability and affordability. Their top priority is the environment, and they are the most optimistic about the role of technology in shaping the future. However, they also feel the pace of change is frustratingly slow.

## BUSINESS LEADERS

Business leaders are focused on the need for economic diversification and recognise the importance of decarbonisation, though seek a clear and pragmatic path to sustainability. They are also concerned about attracting skilled workers, a challenge they feel is intensified by issues with housing availability and affordability.

## HOME OWNERSHIP STATUS

Renters report lower satisfaction with housing availability and affordability. In contrast, homeowners are generally more content with life in Perth today and tend to have stronger views on what steps should be taken to realise Perth's 2050 vision.

## HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Households with higher incomes are generally the most satisfied with life in Perth. Interestingly, however, lower-income households report greater satisfaction with housing affordability and availability. Lower-income residents are also more optimistic about Perth's potential to achieve its 2050 vision.

## GENDER

Female residents are generally more pessimistic about the future compared to males. They show less enthusiasm for technology and are more likely to feel Perth is unprepared for 2050. But when it comes to policy priorities, they place greater emphasis on healthcare, Aboriginal recognition, and building inclusive communities.

## PLACE OF BIRTH

Residents born outside of Perth are more likely to consider leaving the city and often feel that Perth is not prepared for the challenges of 2050. In contrast, those born in Perth show greater satisfaction with life in the city today and place comparatively more importance on promoting Perth's unique appeal to potential visitors.





# Forging the path forward for Perth

This report is all about working towards a future where Perth is a place that people want to live, work, invest, visit and play. Neighbourhoods where shops, cafes and other amenities are within walking distance. And residents who are confident to use and navigate technology, live sustainably and work purposefully.

When looking toward 2050, Perth residents are cautiously optimistic, grounded with a range of hopes and fears. While they naturally have different perspectives and priorities, Perth's residents were clear on one thing: the region needs a bold, imaginative plan for Perth in 2050 and a commitment to follow through to make it a reality.

Getting there will not be easy and will mean addressing the needs of different groups in the community.



**I hope that we become a sustainable, culturally and economically diverse, rich and vibrant city.**

- Survey respondent

**We are clever, resourceful, and tenacious enough to get this right. To see the opportunities and challenges and address them. We need to remember what we are capable of.**

- Rebecca Tomkinson, CEO at Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia

## POLICYMAKERS

“How can we create policies to ensure sustainable growth, protect the environment and enhance liveability for future generations of Perth residents?”

## ENTREPRENEURS

“What are the emerging opportunities in Perth's future economy, and how can I leverage new technologies and industries to build a successful business?”

## FAMILIES

“Will Perth provide affordable homes, good schools, and access to essential services for my family as the city grows and becomes more densely populated?”

## INVESTORS

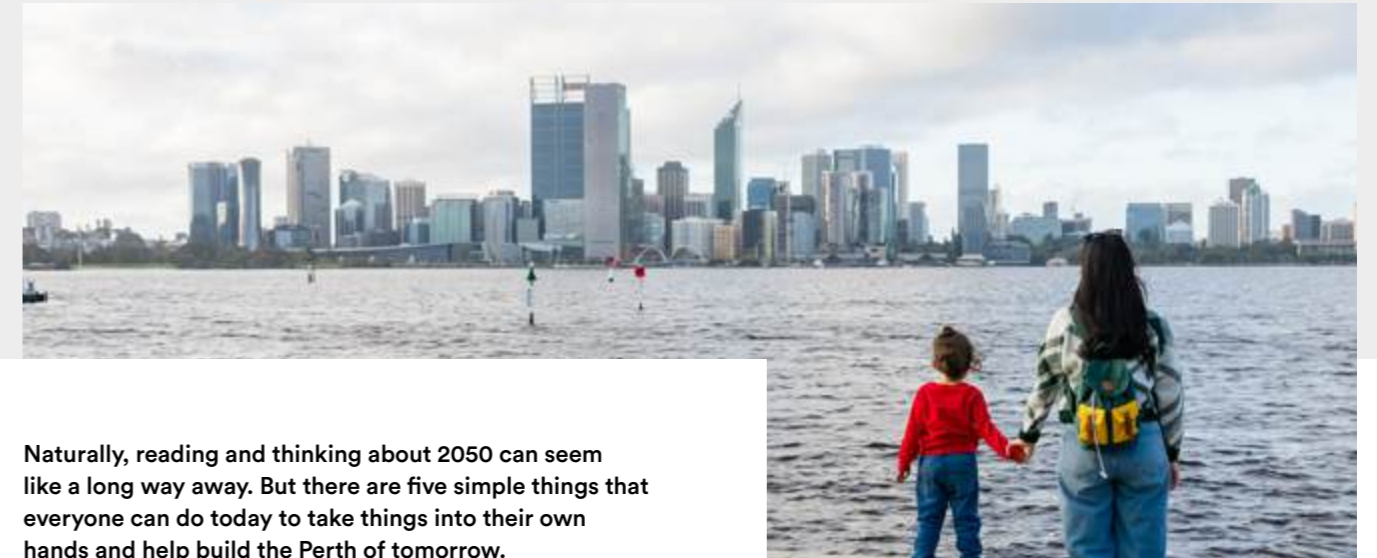
“Where should I invest in Perth to secure strong returns, given the future focus on technology, sustainability, and new economic sectors?”

## TOURIST

“What will Perth offer in terms of unique experiences that will make it a must-visit destination in 2050?”

## BUSINESS LEADERS

“How will we embrace the opportunities to innovate and transform our business?”



Naturally, reading and thinking about 2050 can seem like a long way away. But there are five simple things that everyone can do today to take things into their own hands and help build the Perth of tomorrow.

## STAY INFORMED

Follow trends in key areas like technology, urban development and climate change. Staying updated on emerging industries and policy shifts will help navigate future changes.

## INVEST IN FUTURE SKILLS

Focus on developing skills that will be in demand, such as digital literacy and AI, alongside core human skills like problem solving, creative thinking and emotional intelligence. Lifelong learning is critical as industries evolve.

## ADOPT SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

Make environmentally friendly choices in everyday life. For example, reduce energy use, recycle and support eco-conscious products and brands.

## ENGAGE WITH POLICYMAKERS

Advocate for future-focused policies in the community. Participate in discussions about urban planning, transport or education to make sure diverse voices help shape the future.

## FOSTER INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Engage with local organisations or projects promoting diverse voices and celebrate different cultures, backgrounds, and abilities. This helps build stronger, more vibrant communities now and in the future.

This report is not the end of the road. It is just the start of the conversation. And so more than anything, it is hoped that upon reading this report, people will have a conversation with a friend, neighbour, family member, colleague or customer about Perth in 2050, what they want it to look like and how the region might get there.

Because Perth stands at a pivotal moment, with a unique opportunity to transform into a truly world-leading city—one that thrives on innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity. But to realise this vision, it needs to act quickly and decisively. **The time to shape its future is now.**



# Appendix A: About the research

The report has been developed by Committee for Perth and Scitech - two iconic Perth institutions with a vested interest in the prosperity of Perth. The two organisations engaged Dr Ben Hamer - an accredited Futurist who was born and raised in the northern suburbs of Perth - to lead the research, which took a multi-faceted approach.

Desktop research was undertaken using a wide range of sources and publications, with all data accurate as of November 2024. This was supplemented by a survey designed by the research team and available to anyone living in Perth to offer their views on how satisfied they were with Perth today and where they saw it heading in the future. Administered between 2 - 26 September 2024, the survey was promoted through

mainstream media, LinkedIn, Committee for Perth and Scitech databases, and word of mouth. In total, the survey yielded a sample size of 1,421 respondents.

While the survey provided quantitative data and insights, the project team also wanted to hear more of the stories, detailed experiences, and in-depth perspectives. So, throughout September and October 2024, one-on-one interviews were conducted with experts across the public and private sector, as well as focus groups with a wide range of stakeholders representing different industries and interests. The team also wanted to make sure the people who will be leading Perth in 2050 also had a voice, so the research team ran focus groups with Perth students aged between 11 and 17.

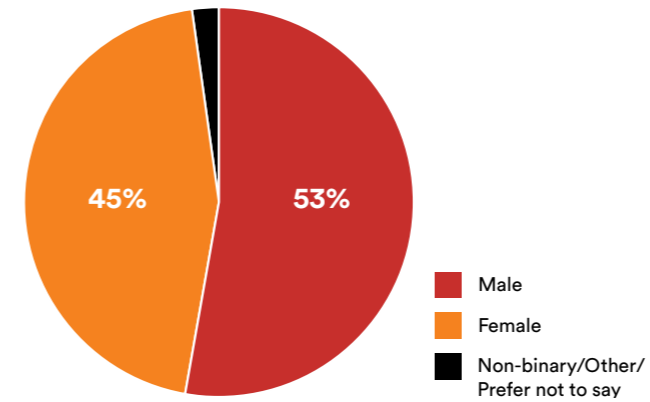
### Consultations by the numbers



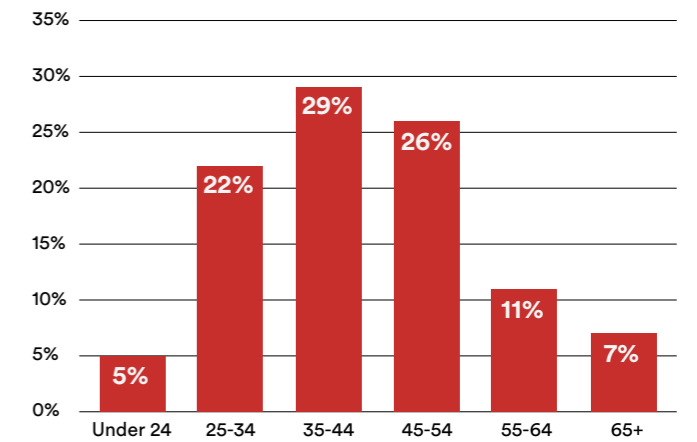
### Overview of survey respondents



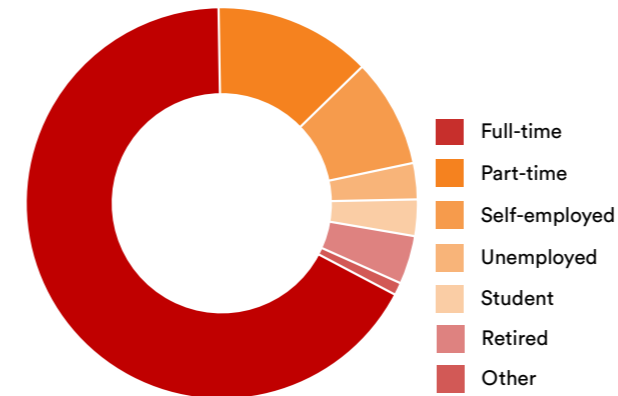
### Gender



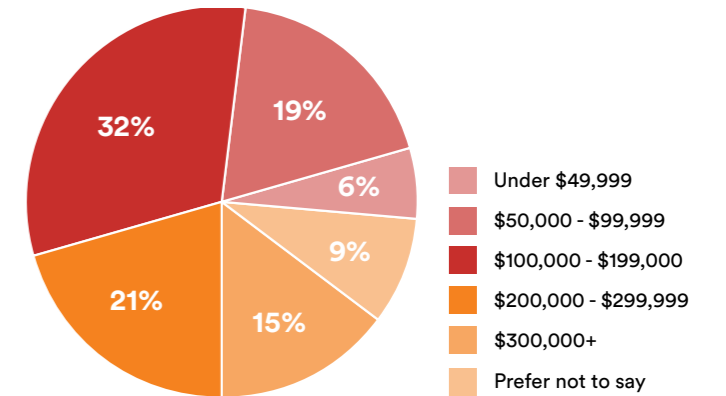
### Age



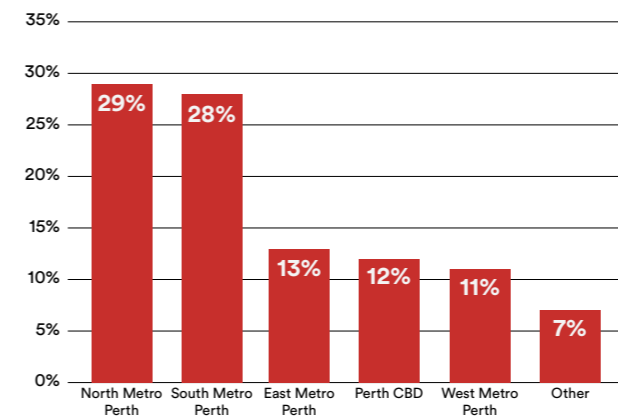
### Employment status



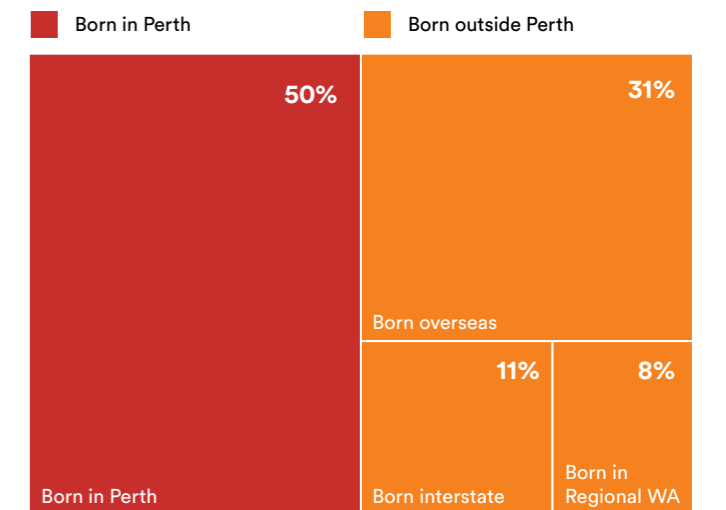
### Annual household income



### Place of residence in Greater Perth



### Origin of birth





## Stakeholder List

The project team would like to thank everyone who participated in the project, from completing the survey to offering perspectives on talkback radio. In particular, we would like to express our deep gratitude for those who gave up their time to participate in a focus group or in-depth interview. Participants were represented across the following organisations:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Western Australia Government                     | South Metropolitan TAFE                       |
| Screenwest                                       | North Metropolitan TAFE                       |
| Western Australia Council of Social Service      | Study Perth                                   |
| Western Australia Chamber of Minerals and Energy | Infrastructure Western Australia              |
| Reconciliation Western Australia                 | RAC   |
| WA Chief Scientist                               | Royal Flying Doctor Service                   |
| Cyberwest  | Perth US Asia Centre                          |
| Creative Tech Village                            | Brightwater Care                              |
| Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre                 | Ruah Community Services                       |
| ECU City Campus Project                          | Chamber of Arts and Culture Western Australia |

The team would also like to thank Perth's future leaders - those students from Committee for Perth member schools (All Saints' College, Presbyterian Ladies' College and Wesley College) and the Scitech Test Pilots group who openly and frankly shared their insights, ideas, and perspectives. If anything, it gave confidence that the future of Perth is in very capable hands.

## More information

**Committee for Perth** is an independent, apolitical, member-based, not-for-profit organisation seeking to make a positive difference to Perth's future. With more than 140 member organisations from over 40 industry sectors throughout the Perth region, Committee for Perth challenges and advocates for change on behalf of its members to ensure Perth is one of the most liveable cities in the world for people to live, work, study, invest and visit. For more information, visit [committeeforperth.com.au](http://committeeforperth.com.au).

**Scitech** is Western Australia's premier science engagement institution, dedicated to igniting curiosity and fostering engagement in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). Through innovative, hands-on exhibits, dynamic programs, and engaging events, Scitech makes science accessible and inspiring for all ages. As a not-for-profit, Scitech is committed to nurturing the next generation of thinkers, innovators, and problem-solvers, empowering them to shape the future. For more information, visit [scitech.org.au](http://scitech.org.au).

Committee for Perth and Scitech commissioned **Dr Ben Hamer** to lead the study and author the report. Ben is an accredited futurist, where he has undertaken work and research around the world, including time spent at the World Economic Forum and as a Visiting Scholar at Yale University. He is an Adjunct Professor at Edith Cowan University, as well as a Board Member for the Australian HR Institute and Netball NSW. Ben is a sought-after researcher, media commentator, podcaster and keynote speaker on future trends and was thrilled to have been able to work on this important project. For more information, visit [benhamer.space](http://benhamer.space).







