

## JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Cooperation between regional councils continues to grow**

Burnie City, Circular Head and Waratah Wynyard Councils have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cradle Coast Authority recognising the synergies that exist between the Sustainable Murchison 2040 Plan and the Cradle Coast Regional Futures Plan.

The Sustainable Murchison 2040 Plan was developed by several councils from the western end of the region in 2016. The Cradle Coast Regional Futures Plan was developed by the Cradle Coast Authority with input from all nine of the region's councils in 2018 and has since been backed by the State Government and other stakeholders as an important blueprint for growing the region's economy.

The MOU recognises the Futures Plan as providing the overarching economic development framework for the region, whilst providing a mechanism for Sustainable Murchison Plan initiatives to be implemented at a regional scale or with whole of region support, when it makes sense to do so.

Cradle Coast Authority CEO, Daryl Connelly, said that the signing of the MOU was part of a broader, very sophisticated economic development agenda being pursued by the region's nine councils.

"Our councils are doing so much more than roads, rates and rubbish. They are working together to tackle very complex industry and education matters that many others would put in the 'too hard' basket, and people from outside the region are watching with interest. The signing of this MOU is further evidence of a new era of local government cooperation."

Waratah Wynyard Mayor, Robby Walsh said "This arrangement will really boost the Sustainable Murchison Plan, which is very important to our community. King Island and West Coast Councils also played a part in the development of the plan, and I look forward to their future involvement."

Burnie City Council Mayor Steve Kons said "This arrangement will ensure a clear understanding of sub-regional and regional projects, and how they relate to one another. The Murchison councils can move forward with priority projects knowing they complement the Futures Plan or can benefit the entire region."

Circular Head Council Mayor Daryl Quilliam said, "This arrangement will strengthen opportunities for collaboration and result in increased regional economic development benefits."

"This will be an extension of existing synergies presently operating between Circular Head and Waratah Wynyard Councils, plus with planned large-scale infrastructure projects affecting multiple municipal areas there are further economic development possibilities to be explored."

Picture (left to right): Circular Head Council GM, Scott Wiley; Waratah-Wynyard Council Director Community Engagement, Tracey Bradley; Burnie City Council GM, Andrew Wardlaw; Cradle Coast Authority CEO, Daryl Connelly, at the inaugural meeting of the Murchison Plan Reference Group recently.

**End...**

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