GRACETOWN
OVERARCHING STATEMENT OF VISION

This Statement is intended as the basis of community intent as to the future of the Town.

THE SITUATION

Gracetown, Cowaramup Bay and environs is an area which is unique for its –

- natural beauty and wilderness
- relatively unspoiled nature
- surf
- sheltered beach
- small village character
- independence and solidarity of community

This uniqueness is based on a fragile landscape.

The people of the Town accept responsibility for the protection and preservation of the uniqueness of the area for the people who wish to visit the area to enjoy its uniqueness, both now and in the future forever.

The Leeuwin Naturaliste Ridge Statement of Planning Policy, prepared by the Department of Planning, recognises the importance and priority of conservation.

In the past few years, there have been investigations by government into the possibility of expanding the built up area of the Town. These investigations continue. Proposals have recently been put forward to government authorities for development near Cowaramup which would significantly increase the permanent and visitor populations of the area.

THE VISION

The Gracetown Progress Association (Inc), as the representative body of the people of the Town, expresses the Community Vision –

for the Area to be forever unique in the:

- preservation and restoration of the ecology of the marine, bush and dune areas
- preservation of the natural wilderness beauty
- preservation of the isolation of the area
- preservation and development of the strong bond among the people of the ‘village’ community
- preservation and improvement of the area, as above, as an the attractive place for tourists, holiday makers, surfers, hinterland residents, permanent residents and non-permanent residents
- respect that people have for the natural beauty of the area
- achievement of sustainability (as defined by the WA State Government: *Focus on the Future* - 2000)

**THE ACTION FRAMEWORK**

The imperatives in transforming The Vision into ongoing reality are –

- no further town building expansion
- protection, forever, of the surrounding bushland by its classification as a National Park
- investment of an appropriate level of effort and funding into the protection and maintenance of the marine, dune, foreshore, town and bush areas
- thoughtful and consultative long and short term planning
- recognition, in planning, that visitor numbers will increase
- provision of facilities for visitors to the Area
- design of facilities to ensure sustainability of the uniqueness

**ON DEVELOPMENT**

The GPA, having been involved in much research and discussion over some years, is firmly of the opinion that it is the uniqueness of Gracetown and environs that attracts people into the area. Any expansion of the Town risks destruction of that uniqueness forever.

**CONTEXT OF THIS STATEMENT**

This Statement of Vision is the overarching component of future planning for Gracetown

1. The Vision (this Statement)
2. Statement of Guiding Principles
3. Planning (long, medium and short term) for Town and environs
4. Implementation of the plans

(1/10/02)