

AUSTRALIND LONG TERM ACCOMMODATION PRECINCT PROPOSED

22 December 2022

Development of a long term, sustainable and socially integrated accommodation precinct at Australind is being proposed by Albemarle Lithium as part of its expected Kemerton expansion.

A Development Application for the proposed 'Paris Grove' precinct, inclusive of residential buildings and associated facilities on a portion of Lot 564 Paris Road, Australind, was lodged this week with the Shire of Harvey.

The proposal is a new, long term proposition, designed to evolve in phases aligned to the construction and operations workforce needed at the Kemerton Lithium Hydroxide Plant over coming decades.

The proposed integrated accommodation approach includes an initial mix of workforce villas and a small number of residential houses, with a future plan to develop a residential housing estate on the site to support Albemarle operations.

"This longer-term approach was influenced by community feedback and fresh analysis of our future operational workforce needs," Albemarle Australia Country Manager Beverley East explained.



"The global outlook for lithium is very strong and underpins the worldwide transition to clean energy. We are also aware of the ongoing shortage of short-term accommodation and long-term residential housing in the South West and want to ensure we don't add to that pressure already in the market."

Ms East said that while the process for an earlier proposal to construct temporary workforce accommodation at Binningup was still underway, there remained an issue with a condition related to reticulated sewerage still to be resolved and that Paris Road was a different proposition.

Albemarle Vice President of Major Projects Australia, Joshua Rowan, who is planning the future expansion of Kemerton, said the focus of Paris Grove would initially be construction workforce accommodation with high quality villas for up to 800 rostered workers, six residential houses and 12 executive villas.

"Our design deliberately lays out these villas and housing in keeping with the approved residential structure plan that is in place," Mr Rowan said. "Paris Grove will, from the start, feature green and landscaped spaces, account for future public roads and include infrastructure that will be useful now and well into the future."

“The existing dedicated shuttle bus which is already located at the Australind site will continue to take workers to and from Kemerton and will be expanded as necessary.

“A final decision on Kemerton expansion is expected next year and in the meantime we are planning a high quality development with facilities to help us further attract and retain the highly skilled workers and their families that will be vital to our Kemerton plant in the future.”

He said the longer-term integrated approach to accommodation and housing was in line with community feedback and would benefit Albemarle’s workforce and Australind in the years ahead.

Ms East said the vision was to create over time a genuinely socially sustainable development that supported the physical and wellbeing needs of the people staying and living there, and which would eventually become a fully integrated, permanent master-planned residential estate.

It is expected that the development application will be advertised for public comment in late January in conjunction with a community consultation process.

“The long term nature of Paris Grove clearly demonstrates Albemarle’s ongoing commitment to Australia,” she said.

“Albemarle is proud to have established a new manufacturing industry in the South West with its investment in the Kemerton lithium hydroxide plant, which will continue to create hundreds of new jobs in the region, attracting more skilled workers and their families for decades to come.”