

SUMMARY OF BUSINESSES' POSITION

Businesses across the WMR region are facing increased regulatory burdens, rising costs, and limited flexibility for growth under the WMR 20-50 Plan. Small and rural businesses, in particular, are concerned about being left behind as the Plan focuses heavily on urban development. Furthermore, the potential for expropriation and the loss of local control over business-friendly policies add to the uncertainty. Overall, businesses fear that the Plan will limit their ability to thrive in the long term.

KEY CONCERNS FOR BUSINESS

What Does it Mean for You?



INCREASED REGULATORY BURDEN

One of the biggest concerns for businesses is the introduction of new regulations and bureaucratic requirements. The WMR 20-50 Plan centralizes decision-making and imposes regional guidelines on land use, development, and infrastructure that would complicate business operations.



RISING COSTS OF DOING BUSINESS

The WMR 20-50 Plan's focus on building new infrastructure and promoting sustainable development could lead to higher operational costs for businesses. From increased taxes to the cost of complying with environmental and zoning regulations, businesses will face growing financial pressure.



LIMITED DEVELOPMENT FLEXIBILITY

The Plan's emphasis on sustainable, high-density development and its restrictions on urban sprawl could limit businesses' ability to choose optimal locations for expansion. Businesses will find themselves restricted by zoning laws that prioritize residential and mixed-use developments over commercial spaces.



WMR 20-50 PLAN: KEY CONCERNS FOR BUSINESS



What Does it Mean for You?



IMPACT ON SMALL AND RURAL BUSINESSES

The WMR 20-50 Plan heavily favours urban-centric development, which could disproportionately impact small and rural businesses. As the Plan encourages growth in urban centres, businesses in suburban and rural areas will see fewer investments in infrastructure and services, limiting their growth potential.



UNCERTAINTY FOR FUTURE INVESTMENTS

Businesses rely on stability and predictability for long-term planning and investment decisions. The WMR 20-50 Plan introduces uncertainty by centralizing planning authority in a regional board, reducing the ability of local governments to make decisions that reflect the specific needs of their business communities.



TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS CONCERNS

For businesses involved in transportation, logistics, or those reliant on supply chains, the WMR 20-50 Plan's infrastructure developments will impact how goods and services move across the region. While some businesses may benefit from improved transit networks, others may face challenges related to accessibility and increased congestion.

WHAT BUSINESS WANTS

Streamlined Regulatory Processes: Businesses want simpler, faster approval processes for expansions and new developments, without excessive red tape.

Predictable Costs: Clear financial planning is needed to ensure businesses aren't burdened with unexpected taxes or fees as a result of the Plan's infrastructure projects.

Flexible Land Use Policies: Businesses want more flexible and reasonable zoning laws that allow for a range of commercial, retail, and industrial development, not just high-density urban living.

Infrastructure Investment in Rural Areas: Rural and suburban businesses need equitable infrastructure investments to ensure they remain competitive and accessible.

Local Decision-Making Power: Businesses want local governments to retain decision-making authority over land use and economic policies to ensure their unique needs are met.

Cancellation of Current Plan: Businesses want a complete scrapping of the current WMR Plan 20-50, including the removal of all staff and contributors to the existing plan. The current plan is so fundamentally flawed that it is impossible for the existing team to create a new one.