

27th July 2026

Planning Department
PO Box 2142,
Rockingham DC WA 6967.

RE: 1-3 Thomas Street, Safety Bay Development Application

Please find attached a development application for 1-3 Thomas street, Safety Bay on behalf of Alta-1 College Ltd.

We would like to place a nano school campus on the above property. By way of background, I thought it may be helpful if I provided you with a little background as to who we are and what we do. We currently operate 24 nano CaRE schools across WA (Curriculum and Reengagement Education) who specialise in assisting youth who are disengaged from school, to find a suitable path back into school attendance through individualised learning pathways.

Local councils and shires have a powerful opportunity to strengthen their communities by partnering with Alta1. Alta1 provides alternative education and therapeutic support for young people who have disengaged from mainstream schooling, helping them reconnect with learning and life. By approving an Alta1 campus, your city can create a hub of hope that delivers tangible benefits: safer streets, supported families, and brighter futures for vulnerable youth. In essence, an Alta1 campus in your area becomes a key community asset, proactively addressing local challenges and contributing to public well-being.

Alta1's Unique Approach

Alta1 is not a traditional school; it blends education with therapeutic care. Campuses maintain roughly a 50:50 ratio of therapeutic staff to teachers, ensuring that each student's mental health and emotional needs are met alongside their education. Every day, trauma-informed staff work one-on-one with students to rebuild trust and confidence, recognising that these young people "aren't broken; many have simply been failed by a system that didn't recognise their potential". This warm, holistic approach, focusing on relationships, safety, and individual strengths, empowers disengaged youth to find their path forward. As a trusted guide, Alta1 listens to each young person's story and then energizes and equips them to move forward toward a productive, purposeful future. For the local authority, the question isn't just "Why support an Alta1 campus?" - it's "Can we afford not to?".

Youth disengagement, mental health struggles, and juvenile crime are pressing issues that affect the whole community. In the sections below, we outline how Alta1 campuses directly reduce youth disengagement and school refusal, lower petty crime and reoffending, relieve pressure on families, support youth mental health goals, and provide visible pathways for our most vulnerable students. By offering a space for Alta1, your city will be investing in solid solutions that deliver measurable social and economic returns for local families and neighborhoods.

Re-engaging Youth in Education!

Keeping youth engaged in education is critical not only for their personal success but for the health and safety of the community. Sadly, the traditional school model is not working for an increasing number of young people. Disengagement and "opting out" of school often lead to serious short and long-term problems, including academic failure, behavioural issues, and even greater risk of youth involvement with the justice or mental health systems. Western Australia faces particular challenges, with the state's high school retention rate falling to 74.4%, its lowest level in over a decade.

When students drop out or refuse school, the costs ripple outward: we see more youth on the streets, higher welfare dependency, and lost human potential. One national study estimated that each disengaged young person can cost taxpayers over \$400,000 in lost lifetime earnings and services, and costs society around \$1.1 million in social impacts over their lifetime.

Re-engaging disengaged youth is not just a moral imperative; it's an economic one.

Alta1 offers a lifeline to these young people. Through flexible, individualised learning plans and a supportive environment, Alta1 campuses help school refusers and at-risk teens to step back into education at their own pace. Class sizes are small, and learning is often project-based or vocational (VET pathways) rather than a one-size-fits-all curriculum. This student-centric approach meets disengaged youth where they are. Importantly, Alta1's environment is warm, non-judgmental, and empowering. Students who previously felt alienated or "unsafe" in mainstream schools begin to trust and belong. They discover that school can be different.

As one Western Australian parent described after her anxious daughter found a place in an alternative program:

"Our 18 year old had to completely forgo Year 11 at her original high school due to crippling anxiety... She switched to a school that caters to students who have disengaged from school... It's been such a perfect fit for her."

This success story is just one of many. Every year, Alta1 campuses reconnect dozens of teens to education, helping them obtain Year 10/11 equivalents, pursue apprenticeships or further training, and ultimately become employable young adults instead of statistics.

By bringing an Alta1 campus to your community, you ensure that fewer teens fall through the cracks. Every student re-enrolled is one fewer out on the streets during the day. Every young person who finds purpose at Alta1 is one more potential local employee, volunteer, or positive story - instead of a drain on community resources. It's a win-win: youth success means community success.

"Young people and you, as their parents, are facing more complex challenges now than any generation before them... And here, we don't look away. We see each student and help them uncover their pathway to purpose." - Aaron Gregory, CEO

This compassionate yet confident tone is how Alta1 speaks to families, and it reflects the school's results. Students often arrive feeling hopeless and behind, but they leave with hope and direction. For local authorities, supporting that transformation is one of the most impactful contributions you can make to youth outcomes and social cohesion in your area.

Supporting Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing

Youth mental health is a critical priority for communities today, and Alta1 is on the front lines of addressing it. Rates of anxiety, depression, and related challenges have soared among young Australians in the past decade. Nearly 40% of Australians aged 16-24 experienced a mental health disorder in the past year, a sharp rise from around 26% in 2007. Local governments and health agencies across WA have been grappling with how to support young people's wellbeing and resilience. An Alta1 campus is a direct, effective response to this challenge, as it embeds mental health support within the schooling environment.

Alta1's model is intentionally designed to meet the complex mental health needs of today's youth. With a high ratio of well-being staff (counsellors, chaplains, psychologists) to students, Alta1 can provide daily therapeutic interventions alongside academics. The staff are trained in trauma-informed practice, meaning they understand how adversity and mental health conditions affect behaviour and learning. Instead of punishing a student for shutting down or acting out, Alta1 staff ask: "What has this student been through, and how can we help repair what's been disrupted?". This empathetic, strengths-based approach creates a safe space for students to address anxiety, depression, or trauma in a way mainstream schools often cannot accommodate. Each Alta 1 student has an individualised therapeutic plan, and progress is measured not just by grades, but by improvements in coping

skills, emotional regulation, and social engagement. By hosting an Alta1 campus, the council directly contributes to local mental health objectives.

Breaking the Cycle of Youth Crime

Communities across WA are seeking solutions to youth crime and anti-social behaviour. Local businesses want safer streets; residents want less vandalism and petty crime. Research has drawn a clear connection between school disengagement and youth crime rates.

Alta1 campuses are a proven strategy to divert at-risk youth away from crime. By intervening early with those who have begun disengaging or offending, Alta1 helps break the cycle before it escalates. A standout example is Alta1's Targeted Engagement Program (TEP) - a specialised part-time intervention for teens on the edge of criminal activity. TEP focuses on relationship building, life skills, community service, and transition support, operating as a short-term "circuit-breaker" within Alta1 for youth referred by justice agencies. The results have been remarkable. In its pilot years, TEP achieved a 67.6% reduction in reoffending rates among participants. Instead of continuing on a path of crime, dozens of these young people transitioned from complete disengagement to active participation in school, training, or work. This success earned Alta1's TEP a Silver Award in the Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards (2022) - national recognition for its crime-prevention impact.

Strengthening Families and Reducing Strain

When a young person is disengaged from school or in trouble, the stress on their family can be immense. Truancy and school refusal don't just show up in attendance records; they play out in living rooms and kitchens every morning across the district. Parents of school-avoidant teens often report daily battles marked by fear, frustration, and exhaustion.

Alta1 provides a crucial relief valve for these families. Enrolling a struggling son or daughter at an Alta1 campus often brings an immediate sense of hope and respite to parents. No longer are they forced into the role of truancy officer each morning; Alta1's caring staff help shoulder that burden, working patiently to re-engage the student. Parents are welcomed as partners rather than blamed.

Visible Pathways, Lasting Community Impact

Perhaps one of the most significant benefits of establishing an Alta1 campus in your area is the public visibility of the solution. Instead of vulnerable youth being an "invisible" problem hidden at home, on the streets, or in the justice system, an Alta1 campus stands as a beacon of hope right in the community. It tells every resident: "We are taking care of our young people. Here is a pathway for those who need extra help." This kind of visible commitment can transform community attitudes. Businesses, police, and residents start to see Alta1 students out and about doing community service projects or work placements (often part of Alta1's program), changing perceptions of these youth from "troublemakers" to young people trying to better themselves. An Alta 1 campus often engages with local groups; for example, students might volunteer with council events or partner with local community groups, further integrating these youth into the fabric of the town.

Join us in turning local challenges into success stories. An Alta 1 campus is more than a school; it's a community asset delivering safety, growth, and hope for all. Let's seize this opportunity to make our community safer, our families stronger, and our future brighter. Together, we can plant the seeds today for a thriving, inclusive tomorrow.

The intention for the site at Safety Bay is for a focused Secondary campus for years 10-12. Should you like more information about who we are and what we do, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards



Adam Butler
Chief Financial Officer