

Shire of Wyalkatchem

COUNCIL PLAN

2026-36

PREPARED WITH
LOCALISE

DESIGNED BY
COSMIC COWGIRL
COMMUNICATIONS



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the Wyalkatchem region, the Ballardong Noongar people.

We acknowledge the wisdom of Elders past, present and emerging and recognise the positive contribution of First Nations people to the health and wellbeing of our communities through care for Country, cultural heritage, values and beliefs.

The Shire of Wyalkatchem thanks everyone who contributed to this plan.

We look forward to working with you as we continue to pursue the vision of the Wyalkatchem community.

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SHIRE PRESIDENT MESSAGE



On behalf of Council, I am pleased to present the Shire of Wyalkatchem Council Plan.

This Plan brings together our Strategic Community Plan and Corporate Business Plan into one clear document, setting out where we are heading as a Shire and, importantly, what matters most to our community.

As part of this process, we took the opportunity to check in with our community and make sure our priorities continue to reflect the needs and aspirations of the people who live, work and invest in Wyalkatchem. I would like to sincerely thank everyone who took the time to provide feedback and contribute to these conversations.

From that feedback, a number of key priorities continue to stand out, including housing, health, industrial development, revitalising our town centre, emergency management, opportunities for our young people, supporting social activities and community groups, and improving waste management. For the first time, our Council Plan also incorporates a Public Health Plan, recognising the important role Council plays in supporting the health and wellbeing of our community.

While we have plenty that we would like to achieve, we also need to be realistic about what our community can afford. Keeping rates and costs manageable remains important, particularly for a small community such as ours. Many of the priorities identified over the next four years will rely on grant funding, partnerships and working alongside other organisations. Council will continue to strongly advocate for Wyalkatchem, and pursue every opportunity available to help turn these priorities into reality.

Alongside this Plan, we will continue work on our Long-Term Financial Plan, Asset Management Plans and Workforce Plan. They help ensure that the services and assets our community relies on today remain sustainable well into the future.

There is also some exciting work ahead. Council will continue to explore opportunities for industrial development and the revitalisation of our town centre, while working with the North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils (NEWROC) on opportunities for a regional approach to waste management.

In 2028, Council will undertake a major strategic review. This will provide another important opportunity to come back to our community, listen to your ideas and priorities, and have meaningful conversations about the future of Wyalkatchem. This work will help shape our next Council Plan and ensure our vision and priorities continue to reflect where our community wants to go.

I am proud of the way Council continues to work together, with healthy and respectful discussion forming an important part of our decision-making and a shared commitment to achieving the best possible outcomes for Wyalkatchem. We also value the strong working relationship between Council and our Administration, which allows us to keep moving forward and focus on delivering positive outcomes for our community.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has contributed to the development of this Plan. A Council Plan is not simply a document; it is a commitment to our community and a guide for the work ahead.

There is plenty to do, and undoubtedly there will be challenges along the way, but there are also many opportunities.

I look forward to continuing to work alongside our Councillors, staff, community, local organisations and regional partners to make Wyalkatchem an even better place to live, work, visit and call home.

Councillor Christy Petchell
Shire President

CEO MESSAGE



The Council Plan 2026-2036 represents an important milestone in the Shire's planning journey. Developed as a minor review in response to the State Government's Local Government Reform program, it brings together key strategic planning documents into a single Council Plan which provides a clearer and more connected framework for decision-making.

Following the 2025 local government election and leadership changes within the organisation, Council took the opportunity to revisit its priorities and reconnect with the community. Through community engagement, stakeholder discussions and Council workshops, we sought feedback to ensure this Plan reflects the aspirations, challenges and opportunities identified by the people of Wyalkatchem.

While this Plan establishes our strategic direction, it also provides the foundation for the next stage of the Shire's Integrated Planning and Reporting journey. Over the coming two years, we will focus on strengthening the plans which support informed and sustainable decision-making, including service planning, long term financial planning, workforce planning and asset management.

A key priority will be developing a better understanding of the services we deliver every day and the resources required to provide them. From roads, waste and public open spaces to community facilities, governance, customer service and emergency management, these services form the backbone of local government and are central to maintaining a safe, connected and thriving community.

This work will support the development of the 2027/28 Budget, provide a strong foundation for the Council elected in 2027 and position the Shire for a comprehensive major review of the Council Plan in 2028. Just as importantly, it will help ensure community priorities are matched with realistic financial planning and a sustainable approach to service delivery.

This Plan is not simply a document, it is a commitment to transparency, responsible stewardship and continuous improvement. By strengthening our planning framework and maintaining a clear focus on community outcomes, we can continue building a resilient, progressive and connected Wyalkatchem.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed their time and feedback throughout this process. Your input has helped shape this Plan and will continue to guide the Shire's future direction.

Tom Kettle
Chief Executive Officer

PART A
STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN



INTRODUCTION

This plan is the centre piece of the Western Australian Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) framework. Under the framework, the community's vision and priorities are key inputs into the Council's plans. The Council is responsible for delivering the best results possible within available resources.

The Council Plan (this document) incorporates the Strategic Community Plan and the Corporate Business Plan. Part A, the Strategic Community Plan, outlines the big picture, showing the long-term vision and goals, and the medium term priorities.

Part B, the Corporate Business Plan, shows the informing strategies, services, key actions, and measures for each goal for the first four years of the plan.

This is followed by a section on managing and resourcing the plan. Each Annual Budget follows the plan.

While this is a ten-year plan, it is not static. Rather, it is a "rolling" plan. Part A is reviewed every two years. The reviews alternate between a minor review (desktop) and a major review, which involves re-engaging with the community on the vision. Part B is reviewed annually.

The Council Plan was adopted at an Ordinary Council Meeting on 21 September 2026. It was a minor review, focusing mostly on Part B. There will be a major strategic review of the whole plan in 2027/28.

Community Engagement

The Shire undertook extensive community engagement in the development of the previous Strategic Community Plan during 2024. For this review, the community was invited to participated in two opportunities to drop-in and give feedback on priorities for the updated Council Plan. In addition, the draft plan was released for public comment from 7 - 18 September 2026.

How will the Council Plan be used?

- Ensure our strategies and plans give effect to the community's vision and priorities
- Align our annual work programs and budgets
- Underpin our partnerships, advocacy and grant applications
- Provide the basis for regular monitoring and reporting

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Wyalkatchem, known locally as Wylie, is a small Wheatbelt community approximately 192 kilometres north-east of Perth.

The Shire covers around 1,743 square kilometres, with the townsite located along the Goomalling–Merredin Road.

Agriculture, particularly wheat and livestock, remains central to the local economy, while Wyalkatchem's history and strong community connections continue to shape its identity.

Wylie is a community built on connection, volunteering and local participation.

The town is supported by a range of community facilities, services, clubs and organisations, including the Community Resource Centre, library, health services, school, sporting clubs and recreation facilities.





OUR COUNCIL

- **Cr Christy Petchell- Shire President**
- **Cr Mischa Stratford- Deputy President**
- **Cr Tracy Dickson**
- **Cr Justin Begley**
- **Cr Rod Lawson Kerr**
- **Cr Christopher Loton**
- **Cr Stephen Gamble**

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Population*

2016	2021	Change
516	470	-9%

Median age

2016	2021	Change
53	54	2%

Families

2016	2021	Change
116	106	-9%

Indigenous

2016	2021	Change
2.5%	6.2%	3.7%

Median weekly household income

2016	2021	Change
746	916	23%

District High School

2016	2021	Change
1	1	NIL

Employed full time

2016	2021	Change
58%	60%	2%

Employed part time

2016	2021	Change
30%	25%	-5%

Unemployed

2016	2021	Change
9%	5%	-4%

Main industry (by employment)

2016: Agriculture, education healthcare

2021: Agriculture, education, public administration

Volunteering

2016	2021	Change
34%	33%	-1%

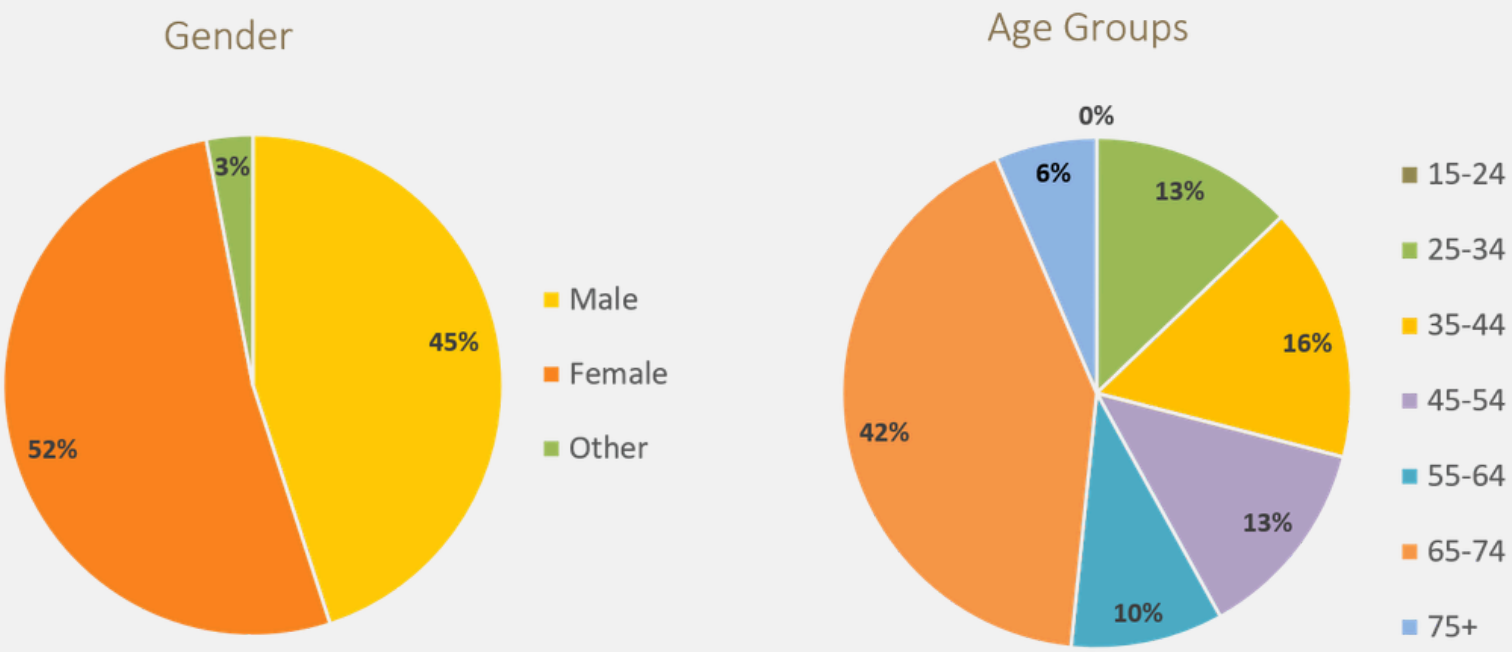
1+ long-term health conditions

2016	2021	Change
N/A	39%	N/A

*Population forecast for 2036 is 490 indicating a 4% change according to WA Tomorrow Population Forecast

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Thirty-one community members took up the invitation to drop in to one of two sessions. The demographic profile of the participants is as follows:



The participants were asked to indicate their priorities for the coming years, from a checklist. Participants were also shown a list of priority areas already being implemented or planned.

The results showed a clear pattern. In the graph on the next page, the highest ranked community priorities are shown in **green**: allied health services hub (where the Shire has a facilitation role), local roads, main street improvements, and youth leadership and engagement. These four all had support from over a third of the participants. The majority of additional comments provided also featured health services.

The areas already earmarked by the Shire also prominently featured health and wellbeing services.

These included the expansion of CEACA independent living units, maintenance of Medical Centre and GP services, upgraded community bus, disability upgrade of the pool, continued provision of community facilities and environmental health services.

The medium ranked priorities are shown in **orange**. These had the support of between 20% and 31% of participants. The lowest ranked priorities are shown in **red.**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Note that one tick denotes that the item is also included in the Disability Access and Inclusion (A&I) Plan and a second tick denotes that the item is also included in the Public Health Plan later discussed in this document.





PUBLIC HEALTH ENGAGEMENT

This Council Plan encompasses the Shire's Public Health Plan. The Plan is shown on pages 30 - 33. Two engagement processes shaped the public health component of this plan:



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ON COUNCIL PLAN

Identifying public health items specifically.

- Maintenance of Medical Centre and GP services
- Allied health services hub
- Local events expansion, including disability access and inclusion
- Expansion of CEACA independent living units
- Upgraded community bus
- Accessibility upgrade of the pool
- Continued provision of community facilities and environmental health services



LOCAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ENGAGEMENT

Including members of the Local Health Advisory Group, Health Services Manager/Director of Nursing at the Wyalkatchem Hospital, and a senior volunteer with St John WA.

- Promote active seniors
- Social activities/groups
- Falls prevention program
- Food education
- Advocacy on:
    - *affordable, available, fresh food*
    - *reduce wait time for drug and alcohol services*
    - *police presence*

STRATEGIC DIRECTION



VISION

A well serviced and growing community; with high quality of life, opportunity and a strong sense of belonging.

OUR PRINCIPLES

- Completing our work with pride and maintaining a high level of consistency in all our efforts.
- Maintaining what we already have and continually striving to improve our community.
- Doing our best with the resources we have, being collaborative, proactive and positive.
- Encouraging everyone to get involved and be part of something greater within our community.
- Having open and transparent communication, ensuring it flows both ways for better understanding and trust.
- Acting with integrity, honesty and accountability.
- Employing local people, building their confidence and capacity.
- Recognising our history.

OUR OUTCOMES AND GOALS



ECONOMY

OUTCOME: Local industry is sustained and can expand with critical and enabling infrastructure. The visitor economy diversifies our local economy, and we enhance our community profile.

GOALS:

1. Our transport network responds to the accessibility and connectivity needs of all.
2. Essential services and infrastructure enable local economic growth.
3. Support entrepreneurship.
4. The length of stay for visitors and tourists in Wyalkatchem is extended.



COMMUNITY

OUTCOME: Our community is inclusive, it is a place where people feel valued and have access to opportunities to build their own capacity, lead healthy lifestyles and stay connected.

GOALS:

1. A safe and healthy community for all ages.
2. Retain young people in Wyalkatchem.
3. Minimise risk and impact of natural disasters.



ENVIRONMENT

OUTCOME: Our environment is protected and enhanced.

GOALS:

1. High standard of environmental health and ranger services.
2. Resource efficiency.



CIVIC LEADERSHIP

OUTCOME: We have inspirational, dynamic leaders providing well managed, transparent governance.

GOALS:

1. Consult and engage with our community and strategic partners.
2. High standard of governance.

PART B
CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN



ROLES

Like all local governments, the Shire does more than provide services. It also advocates, facilitates, funds, partners and regulates. These roles are described below.

In the sections that follow, the roles are shown beside the priorities and indicative projects/key actions, so it is clear where the Shire is directly responsible, and where the responsibility sits partly or entirely with others.

Provider

Directly delivering a range of services and facilities to meet community interests and needs.

Directly responsible

Funder

Directly supporting local groups to further the aspirations of the community.

Directly responsible

Regulator

Upholding high community standards in relation to planning, building and public health and safety.

Directly responsible

Advocate

Acting as the leadership voice, promoting our community's priorities to government, seeking grants/funding.

Not directly responsible

Facilitator

Encouraging and enabling others to respond to community priorities.

Not directly responsible

Partner

Forming strategic alliances and collaborative partnerships to achieve more.

Not directly responsible



FOCUS

The Shire will focus on the four-year priorities identified in the next section.

However, these are not to the detriment of 'business-as-usual' activities, especially responsible maintenance and renewals of our infrastructure assets and facilities, and delivery of local services.

The following sections show the organisation structure and staffing that deliver for the community, and the Shire's services.

The commitments for the next four years are then shown for each pillar, including:

- Outcome
- Goals
- Four-year priorities
- Informing strategies
- Success measures
- Service delivery
- Indicative projects/key actions over the next four years

The pillars also include the priorities from the Public Health Plan (shown on pages 30 - 33).



FOUR-YEAR PRIORITIES

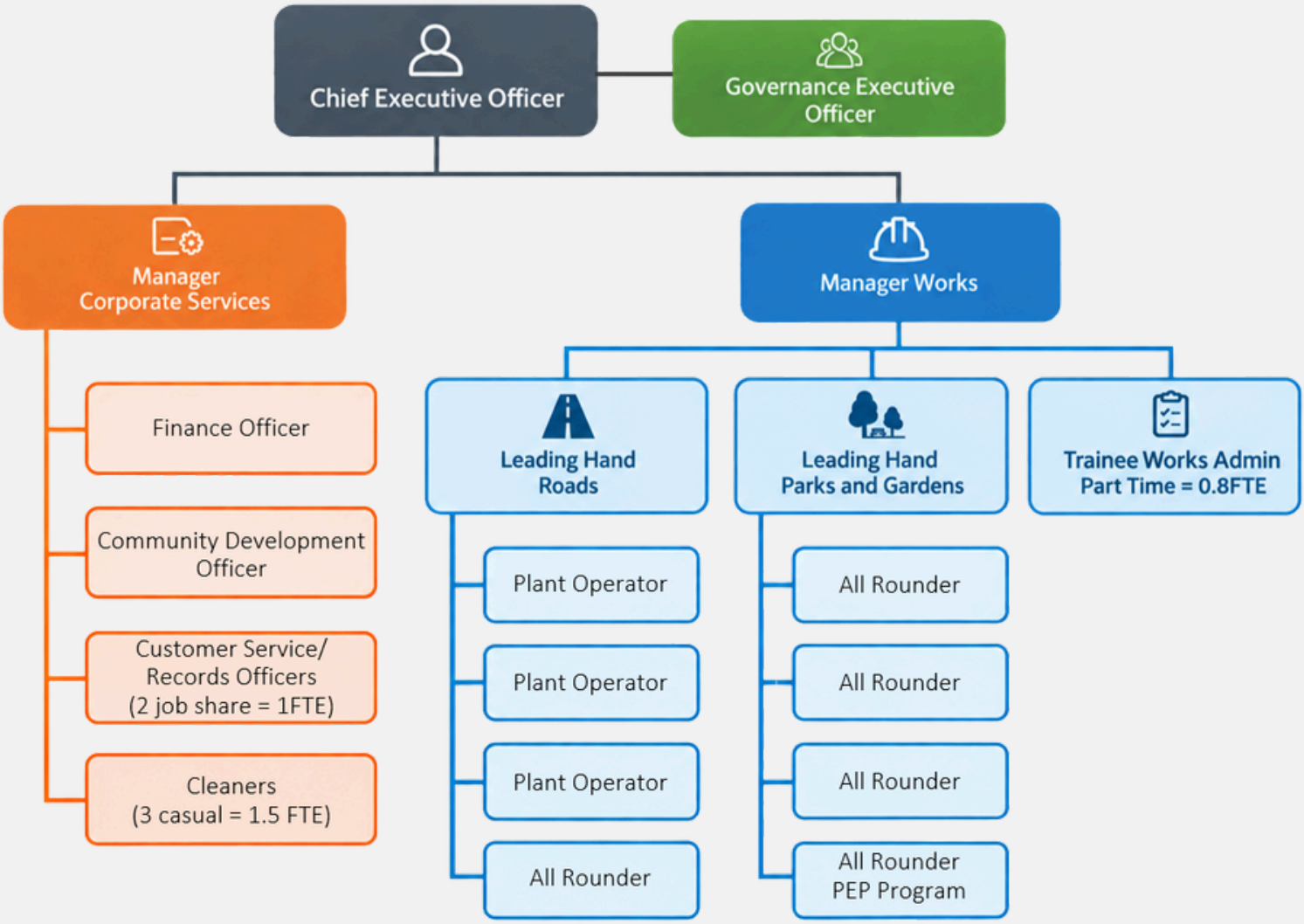
Responsibility	Directy responsible				Not directly responsible	
Roles	**Provider**	**Funder**	**Regulator**	**Advocate**	**Facilitator**	**Partner**
Economy						
Support increased housing		*	*	*		*
Deliver Wheatbelt Secondary Freight network upgrades (subject to funding)				*		*
Develop Wheatbelt rail trail with North East Wheatbelt Travel (NEWTRAVEL)				*		*
Create industrial development strategy*	*					
Create town centre revitalisation plan*	*					
Community						
Upgrade community bus	*					
Promote active seniors					*	*
Facilitate community-led social activities/groups, fall prevention program and food education					*	*
Engage a Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM)						*
Complete swimming pool upgrades	*			*		
Town Hall improvements and accessible entrance to administration building	*			*		
Create Community Facilities Plan*	*					
Environment						
Develop Transfer Station with North East Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils (NEWROC)		*		*		*
Partner with NEWROC to deliver regional waste project				*		*

* Implementation roles will be determined as part of the strategy/plans

FOUR-YEAR PRIORITIES CONTINUED

Responsibility	Directy responsible				Not directly responsible	
Roles	**Provider**	**Funder**	**Regulator**	**Advocate**	**Facilitator**	**Partner**
Civic Leadership						
Facilitate allied health services hub					*	*
Public health advocacy: affordable, available, fresh food; reduced wait time for drug and alcohol services; police presence				*		
Strengthen partnerships: -Community Resource Centre for economic and community development – School for youth leadership development						*
Create Community Engagement Charter	*					
Complete Informing Strategies	*					
Develop IT and Customer Service Roadmap and review Shire website accessibility	*					

ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



SERVICES

Council will deliver and support ongoing services that contribute to achievement of the vision and each goal, as detailed in the following sections.



ECONOMY

- Economic development and tourism
- Strategic land management
- Town planning (contractor)
- Building (contractor)
- Infrastructure and project management
- Roads
- Drainage
- Footpaths
- Plant and fleet
- Airstrip



COMMUNITY

- Events
- Community bus
- Community grants
- Public health promotions and programs
- Swimming pool (run under contract)
- Library (run under contract by the Community Resource Centre)
- Emergency management
- Facilities and property maintenance
- Leasing and property management



ENVIRONMENT

- Environmental health (contractor)
- Ranger (contractor)
- Waste services
- Landfill
- Cemeteries
- Public open space



CIVIC LEADERSHIP

- Governance
- Regional collaboration and partnerships
- Advocacy
- Integrated Planning and Reporting
- Communications and engagement
- Human resources and workplace health and safety
- Finance
- Record keeping
- Information technology
- Customer service

Pillar 1: Economy



Local industry is sustained and can expand with critical and enabling infrastructure. The visitor economy diversifies our local economy, and we enhance our community profile.

Goals:

1.1. Our transport network responds to the accessibility and connectivity needs of all
1.2. Essential services and infrastructure enable local economic growth
1.3. A positive environment for local entrepreneurs
1.4. The length of stay for visitors and tourists is extended

Four-Year Priorities

- Support increased housing
- Deliver Wheatbelt Secondary Freight network upgrades (subject to funding)
- Develop Wheatbelt rail trail with NEWTRAVEL
- Create industrial development strategy
- Create town centre revitalisation plan

Informing Strategies:

- Local Planning Strategy
- Local Planning Scheme
- Recycled water management plan
- Industrial development strategy (to come)
- Town centre revitalisation plan (to come)

Success Measures:

- Increased housing supply
- Delivery of Wheatbelt Secondary Freight network upgrades (subject to funding)
- Delivery of Wheatbelt rail trail
- Completion of Industrial Development Strategy
- Completion of Town Centre Revitalisation Plan

SERVICE DELIVERY

Service	Description	Level of service (+4 years)
Economic development and tourism	Business grants, regional tourism and marketing, facilitate increased housing supply, enhance town centre.	**Increase**
Strategic land management	Ensure the Shire plans for current and future residential, commercial, industrial and community land use.	**Increase**
Town planning (contractor)	Administer the Town Planning Scheme.	**Maintain**
Building (contractor)	Administer building regulations.	**Maintain**
Infrastructure and project management	Ensure capital projects are well managed – delivered on time, to the specified standard, and within budget.	**Maintain**
Roads	Construction, maintenance and renewal of the Shire's road network.	**Maintain**
Drainage	Construction, maintenance and renewal of the Shire's drainage network.	**Maintain**
Footpaths	Construction, maintenance and renewal of the Shire's footpath network.	**Maintain**
Plant and fleet	Maintain and replace the Shire's plant and fleet.	**Maintain**
Airstrip	Operation of an airstrip with two sealed runways, one of which has pilot activated lighting	**Maintain**

INDICATIVE PROJECTS OVER NEXT 4 YEARS

Project/Action	Role/s	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30
Undertake key worker and staff housing project with NEWROC	Advocate, Partner	*	*	*	*
Undertake land and housing development initiatives with WA Country Health Service (WACHS)	Advocate, Partner	*	*	*	
Expand CEACA independent living units	Advocate, Partner	*	*	*	*
Infrastructure planning headworks/rezoning projects to support housing expansion	Regulator, Advocate	*	*	*	*
Deliver Wheatbelt Secondary Freight network upgrades (subject to funding)	Advocate, Partner	*	*	*	*
Develop Wheatbelt rail trail in partnership with neighbouring Shires	Advocate, Partner	*	*		
Create industrial development strategy	Provider		*		
Create town centre revitalisation plan	Provider		*		

Pillar 2: Community



Our community is inclusive, it is a place where people feel valued and have access to opportunities to build their own capacity, lead healthy lifestyles and stay connected.

Goals:

2.1. A safe and healthy community for all ages
2.2. Retain young people in Wyalkatchem (see also Pillar 4)
2.3. Minimise risk and impact of natural disasters

Four-Year Priorities

- Upgrade community bus
- Promote active seniors
- Facilitate community-led social activities/groups, falls prevention program, food education
- Engage Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM)
- Complete swimming pool upgrades
- Town Hall improvements and accessible entrance to Administration building
- Create Community Facilities Plan

Informing Strategies:

- Local Emergency Management Arrangements
- Local Emergency Recovery Plan
- Access and Inclusion Plan
- Community Facilities Plan (to come)

Success Measures:

- Community bus upgraded
- Public health promotions and programs established in identified priority areas
- Community Emergency Services Manager in place
- Completion of Swimming pool upgrades
- Completion of Town Hall improvements
- Completion of Community Facilities Plan

SERVICE DELIVERY

Service	Description	Level of service (+4 years)
Events	An annual rodeo and several smaller events.	**Maintain**
Community bus	An accessible transport option for hire for group travel, outings, events, etc.	**Increase**
Community grants	Sponsorship and waiving of Council fees for local events and activities.	**Maintain**
Public health promotions and programs	Maintenance of Medical Centre and GP services, and promotions and programs to encourage community leadership and participation in activities that support health and wellbeing	**Increase**
Swimming pool (run under contract)	Six lane 50m swimming pool with separate toddler pool and water feature, BBQ area, kiosk, and facilities	**Increase**
Library (run under contract by CRC)	Free membership, book lending, videos, free access to WA State Library digital resources	**Maintain**
Emergency management	Preparedness, response and recovery from natural disasters and other emergencies.	**Maintain**
Facilities and property maintenance	Maintenance of Shire facilities.	**Increase**
Leasing and property management	Management of staff housing, facility hire, leasing of Council property and pool.	**Increase**

INDICATIVE PROJECTS OVER NEXT 4 YEARS

Project/Action	Role/s	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30
Upgrade community bus	Provider	*			
Public health promotion: promote active seniors	Facilitator, Partner	*	*	*	*
Public health programs: community-led social activities/groups, falls prevention education, healthy food education	Facilitator, Partner	*	*		
Engage a Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) in partnership with neighbouring Shires and DFES	Partner	*	*		
Complete swimming pool upgrades (heating, pool hoist)	Advocate, Provider	*	*		
Town hall improvements and restoration of accessible entrance to administration building	Advocate, Provider	*	*		
Develop community facilities plan	Provider		*		

Pillar 3: Environment



Our environment is protected and enhanced.

Goals:

3.1. High standard of environmental health and ranger services

3.2. Resource efficiency

Four-Year Priorities

- Develop Transfer Station with NEWROC
- Partner with NEWROC to deliver regional waste project

Success Measures:

- Transfer station developed

SERVICE DELIVERY

Service	Description	Level of service (+4 years)
Environmental health (contractor)	Food safety, health standards, nuisance control, water quality testing.	**Maintain**
Ranger (contractor)	Delivery of animal control and enforcement of local laws.	**Maintain**
Waste services	Weekly kerbside rubbish collection for townsite residents using 240-litre mobile bins.	**Maintain**
Landfill	Local waste facility located on Cemetery Road is open four days a week.	**Increase**
Cemetery	The current Wyalkatchem cemetery sits in cleared bushland with neat rows of graves and headstones. A niche wall and shade pergola are provided. There are two historic burial grounds in Korrelocking. The Shire also operates a pet cemetery	**Maintain**
Public open space	The Shire manages a number of designated parks, recreational grounds, and reserve areas.	**Maintain**

INDICATIVE PROJECTS OVER NEXT 4 YEARS

Project/Action	Role/s	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30
Develop Transfer Station with NEWROC		*	*		
Partner with NEWROC to deliver regional waste project		*	*	*	*

Pillar 4: Civic Leadership



We have inspirational, dynamic leaders providing well managed, transparent governance

Goals:

4.1. Consult and engage with our community and strategic partners

4.2. High standard of governance

Four-Year Priorities

- Facilitate allied health services hub
- Public health advocacy
- Strengthen partnership with Community Resource Centre for economic and community development
- Strengthen partnership with the school for youth leadership development
- Informing strategies
- Community engagement charter

Informing Strategies:

- Risk Management Framework
- Procurement Policy
- Community Engagement Charter (to come)
- Long Term Financial Plan, Asset Management Plan, Workforce Plan (to come)
- IT and Customer Service Roadmap (to come)

Success Measures:

- Progress towards allied health services hub
- Public health advocacy in identified priority areas
- Partnerships progressed with Community Resource Centre and School
- Completion of Community Engagement Charter
- Completion of Informing Strategies
- Completion of IT and Customer Service Roadmap and Shire website accessibility review

SERVICE DELIVERY

Service	Description	Level of service (+4 years)
Governance	Democratic process and Council Member support, procurement, audit, risk and compliance.	**Maintain**
Regional collaboration and partnerships	Membership and participation in NEWROC and NEWTRAVEL, Local Health Advisory Group, and other collaborations.	**Increase**
Advocacy	Promoting the community's interests to State and Federal Government and others; seeking grants/funding.	**Increase**
Integrated Planning and Reporting	Strategic and corporate planning integrated with financial planning.	**Increase**
Communications and engagement	Communications and community and stakeholder engagement.	**Increase**
Human resources and workplace health and safety	Ensuring the Shire has the right people, in a safe and productive work environment.	**Maintain**
Finance	Includes Annual Budget, rates, fees and charges, debtors and creditors, payroll	**Maintain**
Record keeping	Maintenance and security of records, Freedom Of Information (FOI) requests.	**Maintain**
Information technology	Systems development, network and operations.	**Increase**
Customer service	General enquiries, cat/dog registration and payments, bookings etc.	**Increase**

INDICATIVE PROJECTS OVER NEXT 4 YEARS

Project/Action	Role/s	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30
Facilitate allied health services hub	Facilitator, Partner	*	*	*	*
Public health advocacy: *-affordable, available, fresh food* *-reduce wait time for drug/alcohol services* *-police presence*	Advocate	*	*	*	*
Partnership development: *-Community Resource Centre for economic/community dev.* *-School for youth leadership development*	Partner		*	*	*
Create Community engagement charter	Provider	*	*		
Complete informing strategies (Long Term Financial Plan, Asset Management Plan, Workforce Plan)	Provider	*	*	*	
Develop IT and Customer Service Roadmap and review Shire website accessibility	Provider	*	*		

PART C
PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN



OVERVIEW

This Council Plan also encompasses the Shire's Public Health Plan. All local governments in Western Australia are required to develop a Public Health Plan. It provides a useful lens to consider what the Shire does and potentially could do, to contribute to the health of the Wyalkatchem population. Local government Public Health Plans nest inside the Western Australia State Public Health Plan. The State Plan's strategic direction is summarised in the diagram on the next page.

LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN REQUIREMENTS

The plan requirements are:

- identify public health issues
- strategies to improve public health (from prevention to services)
- strategies to identify and respond to new public health risks
- who will work with who to improve public health
- how the plan will be monitored, reported and periodically refreshed

Local government public health strategies need to be within its remit and will often encompass existing services and activities.

WYALKATCHEM PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

The statistics show that health status concerns in Wyalkatchem* are also present in most communities. They include:

- Nutrition and Dietary Habits
- Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour
- Overweight and Obesity Rates
- Tobacco Use and Vaping
- Tobacco-Attributable Hospitalisations and Deaths
- Alcohol Consumption and Related Harm
- Illicit Drug-Attributable Hospitalisations and Deaths
- Mental Health Conditions Prevalence
- Psychological Distress
- Injury Prevalence Among Children and Adults
- Injury-Related Hospitalisations and Deaths

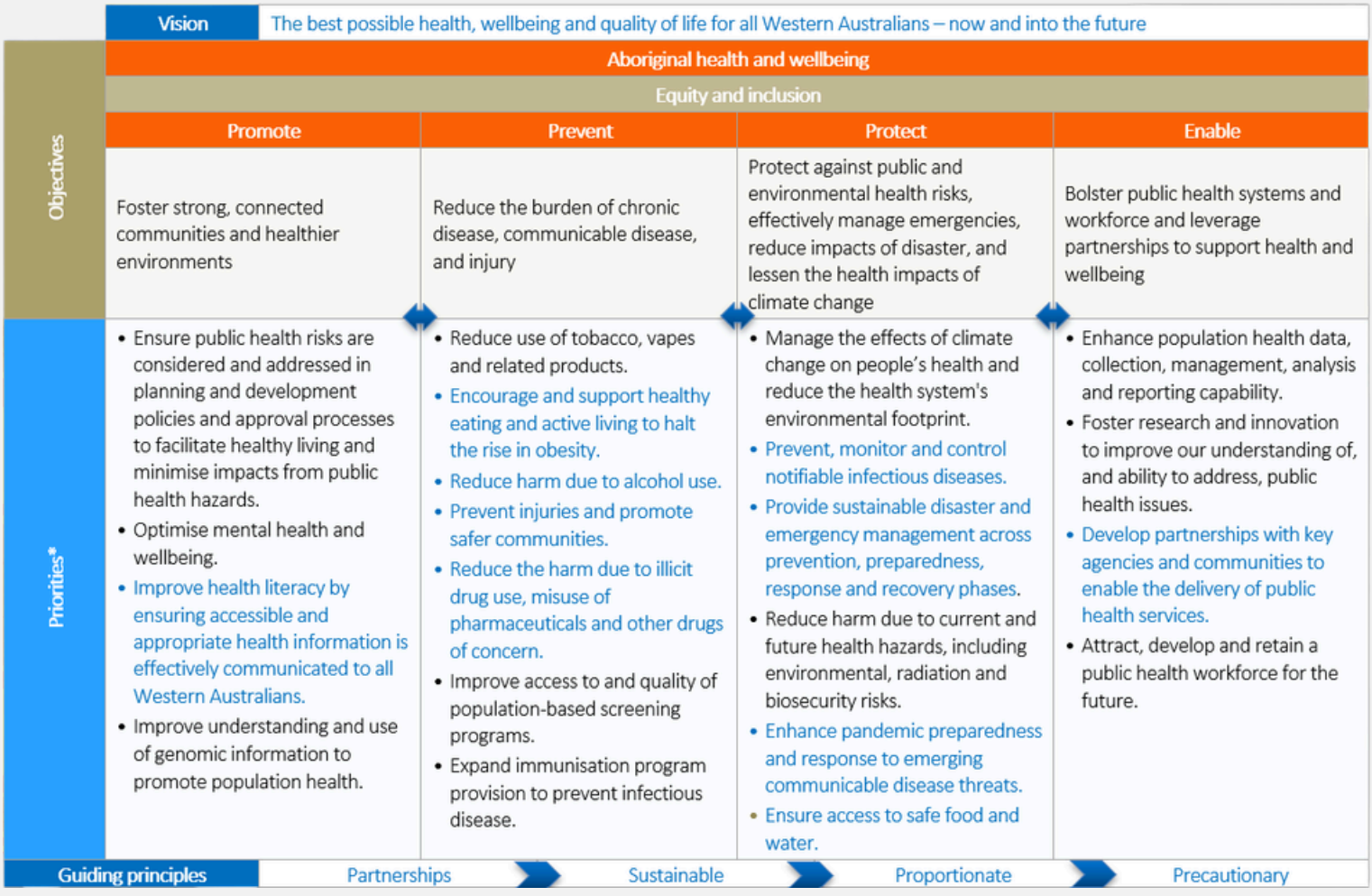
*Epidemiology Directorate, Public and Aboriginal Health Division, Department of Health WA, January 2026, Health and Wellbeing Profile; Shire of Wyalkatchem 2015 – 2024

WYALKATCHEM PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES CONTINUED

Based on the statistics, input from the community and the Local Health Advisory Group and other health professionals, the plan focuses on the priorities (shown in blue text in the diagram below) and strategies (shown on page 33) that best reflect the following criteria:

- Community feedback
- Input from public health professionals on the key issues facing the Wyalkatchem community
- Fit with the Shire's remit
- Potential for collaborations to maximise impact

State Public Health Plan Vision, Objectives, Priorities and Principles



The Shire of Wyalkatchem Public Health Plan focuses on the priorities shown in **blue text.**

STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH

Public health issues and priorities were tested through the processes outlined in the public health engagement section as part of applying the criteria outlined on page 32.

The selected strategies for the Shire's Public Health Plan are listed below. These are included in the pillar sections.

The strategies are listed in two categories: existing Shire activity that is already contributing to the priorities and objectives, and new or enhanced activity that has resulted from applying a public health 'lens' more broadly.

Existing activity

- Provide and coordinate emergency management
- Maintenance of Medical Centre and GP services
- Facilitate allied health services hub
- Local events expansion, including disability access and inclusion
- Expansion of CEACA independent living units
- Upgrade community bus
- Accessibility upgrade of the pool
- Continued provision of community facilities and environmental health services
- Continue to work in partnership with the Local Health Advisory Group and individual agencies to benefit the public health of the Wyalkatchem and regional community

New or enhanced activity

- New public health promotions and programs service to encourage community leadership and participation in activities that support health and wellbeing. Initial priorities include facilitation and partnerships to:
  -promote active seniors
  -encourage the establishment of community-led social activities/groups
  -support education on falls prevention and healthy food
- Public health advocacy for:
  -affordable, available, fresh food
  -reduced wait times for drug and alcohol services
  -police presence



Monitoring and refreshing the Public Health Plan

The group that met for the public health professionals' engagement have agreed to convene annually to review progress and priorities.

The Shire will re-engage with the community on public health priorities in its major strategic review.

PART D
MANAGING THE COUNCIL PLAN



RESOURCING

Three key mechanisms for resourcing the Council Plan are the Long Term Financial Plan, Asset Management Plans and Workforce Plan. These form part of Western Australia's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, and are programmed for review in the coming 18 months. Once they are complete, the Shire will have a more robust picture of its long term financial position. This will be a vital input to the major strategic review in 2027/28.

Long Term Financial Plan

The Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) is a ten year 'rolling' plan. It is refined and updated through each year's Annual Budget. More substantial reviews occur every second year.

Identifying resourcing requirements is fundamental to prioritisation, which is how Council balances aspirations with affordability. This is essential to achieving and demonstrating financial sustainability.

The LTFP is a key tool in the prioritisation process and ensures the Council Plan is financially viable. The LTFP identifies key assumptions including demographic projections, rating base growth, consumer price index (or local government cost index), and interest rates.

Major capital and operational expenditure identified in the Council Plan are included in the LTFP. The LTFP also reflects the Shire's key financial policies.

Workforce Plan

The Workforce Plan addresses the skills, expertise and knowledge required by the organisation; the desired organisational culture and how to develop it; what organisational structure will work best; recruitment and retention in the context of labour market challenges and opportunities; and the facilities and equipment needed to support a productive and inclusive workforce.

The Workforce Plan identifies the costs of the workforce, and also has regard to other regulatory requirements such as Workplace Health and Safety, Equal Employment Opportunity and the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.

Asset Management Plans

The effective management of assets is critical to the sustainable delivery of local government services. The Shire holds a large portfolio of long-lived assets, so it is critical to plan and prioritise the maintenance, renewal and eventual replacement of those assets, manage upgrades, and provide for the acquisition of new assets as required.

STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT

The Shire of Wyalkatchem maintains a robust strategic and operational risk management system.

The table below identifies key risks associated with this Council Plan and the applicable controls to mitigate those risks.

Risk	Risk Controls
Challenges in recruiting and retaining skilled staff	• Workforce Plan (WFP) • Learning and development opportunities
Employee cost rises above assumption	• Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) • Workforce Plan (WFP) • Budget process
Breakdown in relationship amongst Council Members or between Council Members and CEO	• Code of Conduct and relevant policies • Councillor induction and training • Conflict resolution process • Regular meetings CEO/ President • Regular Council briefings/workshops • CEO performance review process
Lack of community awareness of Council's direction	• Effective engagement in major strategic review • Ongoing communications and engagement
Lack of available skilled contractors/suppliers	• Tender and procurement process
Increased contractor and/or materials costs putting pressure on capital program	• Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) • Asset Management Plans • Budget process • Rigor of project management
Reduced external grants/funding	• Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) • Budget process • 'Shovel-ready' projects • Lobbying and advocacy
Natural disasters and emergencies	• Business Continuity Plan • Local Recovery Plan • Local Emergency Management Arrangements • Insured risk • Strategic reserves
Projects not delivered to quality, time or budget	• Project management • Budget process • Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP)
Exposure or loss resulting from a cyber-attack or data breach	• Insured risk • Access controls / Cloud-based • Audits and testing • Network design

MONITORING AND REPORTING

The Council will monitor progress against the Council Plan six monthly. These reports will be public. For the 2027/28 year, the focus will be on monitoring implementation. The new Council Plan (beginning 1 July 2028) will include monitoring of the impact of the plan against the goals.

The Shire's regular communication channels will be utilised to notify the community of progress or significant changes in connection with the Council Plan.

Annual updates on progress will be published in each year's Annual Report.

