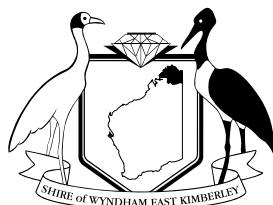


SHIRE OF WYNDHAM EAST KIMBERLEY

Strategic Community Plan

2026-2036



Acknowledgement of Country

The Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley acknowledges the traditional custodians of the East Kimberley, the Doolboong, Gajerrong, Gamberee, Kadjorong, Kija, Kwini, Miwa, Miriwoong, Ngarinyin, Worla, Worora, Wunambul, Ballengarra and Yijji people. We pay our respects to Elders both past and present and their connection to the land, waters and community.

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Document Revision	Approval
SCP 2026-2036	Council 9/0 - No. 119501 26 July 2026



A message from the Shire President

Welcome to the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley's Strategic Community Plan.

Our region is a unique and diverse place, shaped by strong communities, rich cultures and an extraordinary natural environment. It is a place people are proud to call home, and this Plan reflects our shared ambition to protect what we value while planning for the future.

As part of this review of the Strategic Community Plan, we have reflected on the progress made to date and the changing needs of our community, while maintaining the long-term vision established with our residents, businesses and stakeholders.

The Strategic Community Plan remains the Shire's highest-level planning document guiding our decision-making, priorities and use of resources to ensure we continue to deliver outcomes that matter most to our community. It reflects a shared commitment between Council, the organisation, our partners and the community to work together towards a common future.

Through previous engagement and ongoing feedback, we have maintained a clear focus on the priorities that will shape our region over the next 10 years. These are grouped into three key focus areas:

- Liveability – supporting safe, healthy and inclusive communities, with access to housing, services, recreation and economic opportunity.

- Connectivity – strengthening physical and social connections within our communities and to the broader region.
- Sustainability – managing growth responsibly while protecting our unique environment, lifestyle and cultural values.

This Plan provides a clear and practical roadmap for how the Shire will contribute to achieving these outcomes, whether through leadership, service delivery, partnerships or advocacy. It also ensures we can measure our progress and remain accountable to our community.

While the Strategic Community Plan is led by the Shire, achieving its vision is a shared responsibility. Continued collaboration with government, industry, community organisations and residents will be essential to delivering lasting outcomes for our region.

I am confident this updated Strategic Community Plan will continue to guide our community forward, building on our strengths and ensuring we remain responsive to emerging challenges and opportunities.

David Menzel
Shire President



Introduction

The Strategic Community Plan sets the long-term direction for the Wyndham East Kimberley district. Developed through the Shire's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, it reflects the priorities identified by the community and its elected representatives and provides a shared roadmap for the future.

At the heart of the Plan is the vision to create a more liveable, connected and sustainable future by connecting our cultures, striving for shared prosperity, and celebrating the spirit of country and community.

This vision provides the foundation for the Shire's planning and decision-making over the next ten years. It guides the priorities, outcomes and actions contained within this Plan and helps ensure that future investment, services and advocacy remain focused on the our community's goals and outcome for the future.

Our Shire

The Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley is the northern most local government in Western Australia and includes 1,150 kilometres of coastline, the largest fresh water body in Australia and many national parks.

Located in the Kimberley region of Western Australia covering an area of 121,000 square kilometres, and

stretching from the Northern Territory border to the northern most tip of Western Australia. The Shire is one of four local governments that make up the Kimberley region. The Shire has two towns, Kununurra and Wyndham as well as numerous Aboriginal and remote settlements including Kalumburu.

Wyndham

- 941 residents
- 199 families
- 36 years median age
- 57% Aboriginal (identify)
- 32% born overseas

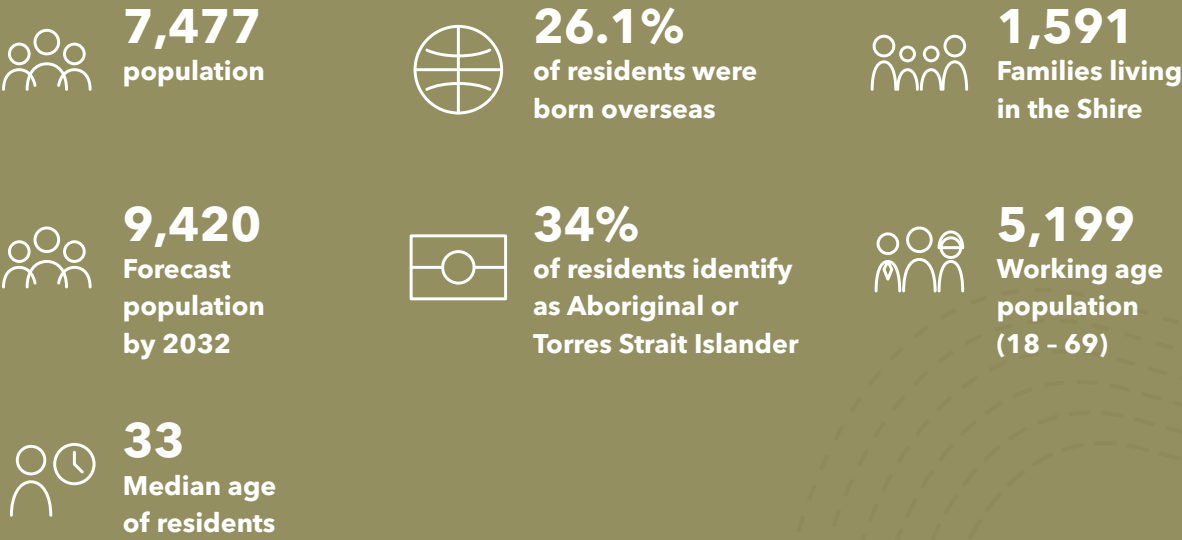
Kununurra

- 5,494 residents
- 1,194 families
- 33 years median age
- 25% Aboriginal (identify)
- 33% born overseas

Lake Argyle

- 205 residents
- 36 families
- 32 years median age
- 49% Aboriginal (identify)
- 24% born overseas

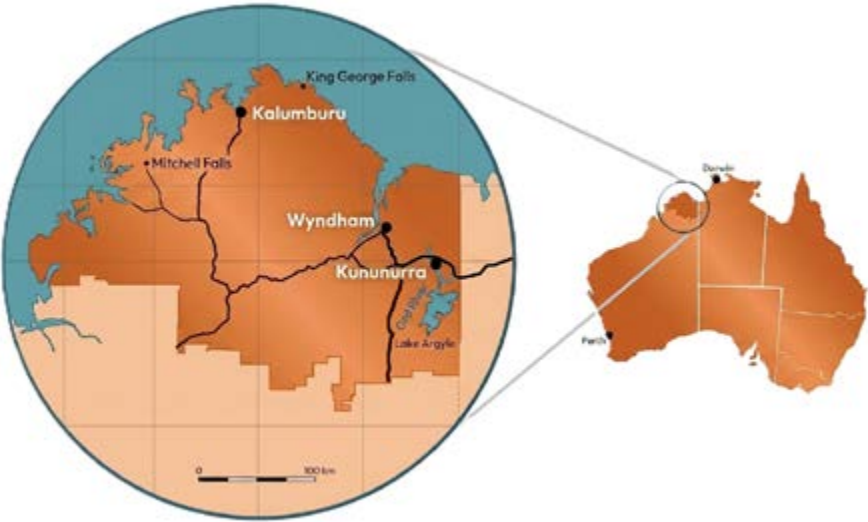
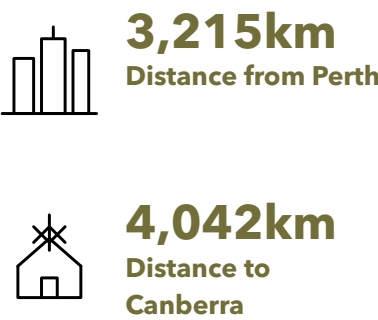
Population statistics



Infrastructure



Location



Plan Purpose

The Strategic Community Plan is the Shire’s highest-level planning document. Developed with the community and Council, it sets a shared long-term vision, priorities and aspirations for the future of the district.

The Plan provides a clear understanding of what matters most to our community and guides the Shire’s decision making, service delivery and future planning over the next ten years. It helps ensure that projects, services and resources remain focused on achieving the outcomes that are most important to residents.

The Strategic Community Plan forms part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework,

which is used by local governments across Western Australia to align community aspirations with long-term planning, service delivery and resource allocation. Through this framework, the community and its elected representatives work together to set the strategic direction for the district and monitor progress towards achieving shared goals.

The 2026 updated Strategic Community Plan represents a minor review of the 2023–2033 Plan. It builds on previous community engagement and feedback to ensure the Plan remains responsive to changing community needs, opportunities and priorities.

Community-Led Planning

The Strategic Community Plan is shaped by and reflects the aspirations of the community and endorsed by Council as the district’s long-term roadmap for the future. The community and its elected representatives work together to identify priorities, guide decision making and set the Shire’s strategic direction for the next ten years.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

The Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework is the Shire’s strategic planning process. It helps ensure that Council decisions consider both the community’s long-term aspirations and the resources available to deliver them. Through this framework, the community and its elected representatives work

together to set the Shire’s strategic direction and monitor progress towards shared goals.

The IPR Framework is designed to:

- Clearly express the community’s vision, priorities and desired outcomes.
- Align resources with community priorities while balancing aspirations and affordability.
- Measure, monitor and report on progress to support transparency and accountability.



Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework:



Community Engagement

In developing the Strategic Community Plan, a wide representation of community views and ideas were sought.

The Shire’s strategic direction is shaped by the community and its elected representatives through engagement and the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. Catalyse conducts the MARKYT® Community Perceptions Scorecard surveys on behalf of the Shire, providing a strong evidence base for understanding current issues and community priorities. The Shire also engages with the local community through the Shape Your Shire platform.

Council adopted the full review of the Strategic Community Plan in 2023 for the period 2023-2033. In 2025-26, Council completed a minor review informed by the most recent Community Perceptions Scorecard survey.



Participation statistics



4,052
people reached
on social media



203
people completed
the Community
Visioning survey



1,181
people reached by
direct mail



148
people attended
pop-up sessions



595
people interacted
with on social
media



81
people attended
drop-in sessions



408
people completed
the Community
Perceptions
scorecard



67
people attended
workshops

Our Vision

Our Vision

Creating a more liveable, connected and sustainable future
by
Connecting our cultures, striving for shared prosperity, and celebrating the spirit of country and community.

The vision for the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley sets out the Shire’s philosophy, values and priorities, developed in close collaboration with the local community.

Our Purpose

To work with community to influence and lead change to deliver positive outcomes.

Our purpose statement guides our approach and Shire functions, helping us to set goals and achieve them in the future.

Our Values

Communication

- We communicate openly with each other and our community.

Safety & Wellbeing

- We are focused on the health and wellbeing of our colleagues and community.

Teamwork

- We work collaboratively to achieve shared goals.

Accountability

- We take responsibility for our actions and behaviours.

Respect

- We are respectful of people, ideas, culture and environment.

Our values guide how we work, make decisions and interact with the community, providing a foundation for the behaviours and culture that support the achievement of our vision and purpose.

Our Statagic Direction

Our Vision:

Creating a more liveable, connected and sustainable future
By connecting our cultures, striving for prosperity, and celebrating the spirit of country and community

To realise the community Vision, the Plan outlines three focus areas, together with ten community goals.

Focus Areas

Strategic themes that group goals that require similar responses, ensuring coordinated action and clear direction for creating a liveable, connected, and sustainable future. They help align projects and resources with the community’s long-term vision.



Liveability

Improving liveability through social, recreational and economic opportunities and addressing quality of life factors

1. Safe communities
A community where we all feel safe

2. Healthy communities
Encouraging active, healthy lifestyles

3. Access to housing
There are housing opportunities for everyone

4. Access to education
Education and training opportunities for everyone

5. Access to employment
Inspiring meaningful growth and prosperity



Connectivity

Improving physical and social connectivity within the Shire.

6. Accessible places
Places that are connected, accessible and well maintained

7. Connecting to the world
Creating access and turning our remoteness into a positive experience

8. Connecting our cultures
Celebrating and connecting our rich community, culture and heritage



Sustainability

Protecting and enhancing our spectacular natural environment and relaxed lifestyle, through sustainable growth and community-driven leadership.

9. Conserving country
Protect and enhance our unique natural environment for generations to come

10. Community-driven leadership
Leaders work with the community to develop and implement change in delivering positive outcomes

Community Goals

These are long-term priorities that express the community’s vision for the future. They define areas where collective effort is needed to improve quality of life and sustainability. Each goal sets a clear direction for planning and resource allocation and is supported by measurable outcomes and strategies.



Liveability

Improving liveability through social, recreational and economic opportunities and addressing quality of life factors.

- 1 Safe communities
- 2 Healthy communities
- 3 Access to housing
- 4 Access to education
- 5 Access to employment

Liveability means creating communities where people feel safe, healthy, connected and able to take part in community life. It is shaped by everyday quality-of-life factors such as safety, health and wellbeing, education, housing, recreation, employment and social connection. In the East Kimberley, improving liveability means supporting people of all ages and backgrounds to access the services, opportunities and places they need to thrive, participate and feel a strong sense of belonging.

Strategic Projects

Community Safety Plan

Develop and implement a Community Safety Plan to prioritise and coordinate the efforts of different stakeholders to improve community safety.

Recreation and Events Master Plan

The Recreation and Events Master Plan guides planning, prioritising, and funding recreation services and facilities. The plan will include the refurbishment and upgrade of the Kununurra Leisure Centre and development of an integrated civic and recreation centre for Wyndham.

Economic Development Strategy

Implement actions that will create more jobs, increase incomes and improve living standards for all.



Goal 1

Safe Communities



A community where we all feel safe

Creating a community where people feel safe, public spaces are welcoming and well used, and families, children and individuals are supported to make positive choices and prevent harm.

Goal Outcomes:

1.1 Awareness and Action

Community is aware and understands how to stay safe and takes action

1.2 Safe Physical Environment

People feel safe on the streets and in public areas and can engage in healthy vibrant active lives

1.3 Families, Children, Young People

Families are supported and children and young people make better choices

1.4 Alcohol and Other Drugs

Less alcohol and drug related harm in the community



Goal Background

Community safety is about people feeling safe, being safe, knowing what to do in an emergency, and having the confidence to participate in everyday community life. It includes safety at home, on local streets, in public places, on roads, and in community facilities. In a remote region such as the East Kimberley, community safety is shaped by both emergency preparedness and community wellbeing. This includes the ability of communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural hazards and extreme weather events, supported by emergency services, volunteers, community networks and resilient infrastructure. It also includes reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, creating safe and welcoming public spaces, supporting families and young people, addressing alcohol and other drug-related harm, and ensuring agencies and communities work together to strengthen safety and resilience across the Shire.

The 2026 Community Scorecard shows that community safety remains the community's number one priority. Community feedback highlighted the importance of both stronger community safety measures and emergency preparedness. Residents called for safer public places, more lighting and CCTV, greater police presence, improved coordination between agencies, stronger support for at-risk young people and families, better access to alcohol and other drug support services, and ongoing investment in local emergency response capability and community resilience.

Shire role

Shire Role: Partner to address all aspects of community safety, ranging from crime prevention to animal control and emergency management

Strategies to achieve the goal outcomes:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| S1.1 | Strengthen community awareness of safety, crime prevention and emergency preparedness. |
| S1.2 | Plan, build and maintain safe public places that discourage crime and anti-social behaviour. |
| S1.3 | Advocate for greater support for families, children and young people. |
| S1.4 | Advocate for services to support the reduction of alcohol and drug related harm. |

Indicators of Progress

- | |
|---|
| Community satisfaction with safety and crime prevention |
| Recorded crime rates (crimes per 100 residents) |
| Fire and Emergency Services incidents recorded |

Goal 2 Healthy Communities

Encouraging active, healthy lifestyles

Supporting healthy, active lifestyles by improving access to health services, recreation opportunities, and strong community connections.



Goal Outcomes:

2.1 Access to health care

Improve access to quality health and community services

2.2 Access to sport and recreation facilities and services

Sport and recreation facilities and services are accessible and well maintained

2.3 Access to community groups and clubs

Access to strong supportive community groups and clubs



Goal Background

Healthy Communities is about supporting people to live active, connected and healthy lives. This means improving access to health and community services, providing inclusive sport and recreation opportunities, and supporting community groups and clubs that help people participate, belong and thrive.

The 2026 Community Scorecard reinforces the importance of this goal. It shows that health and community services, sport and recreation facilities, volunteer support, family and children’s services, and accessible local infrastructure all contribute to community wellbeing and liveability.

Achieving this goal requires shared effort between the Shire, government agencies, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, health providers, schools, clubs, community organisations and residents.

Shire role

Enable and support healthy, active and connected communities by advocating, partnering and providing accessible facilities, services and opportunities

Strategies to achieve the goal outcomes:

- | | |
|------|---|
| S2.1 | Work with key partners to advocate for improved health and wellbeing services. |
| S2.2 | Collaborate with a wide range of stakeholders to advocate and provide accessible facilities that support a range of sporting and recreational activities. |
| S2.3 | Support and build the capacity of community groups and clubs through community grants programs, advice and management of Shire reserves and facilities. |

Indicators of Progress

Community satisfaction with access to health and community services
Community satisfaction with sport and recreation facilities and services
Emergency department attendance - Kununurra
% of Shire residents of 15 years and over volunteering (ABS)



Goal 3

Access to Housing

There are housing opportunities for everyone

A community with access to safe, appropriate and affordable housing that meets the needs of residents and supports workforce needs and community wellbeing across the Shire.



Goal Outcomes:

3.1
Housing
Supply

The supply of housing meets current and future demand

3.2
Housing
Design

Homes are designed for current and future climates, cultures, ages, incomes and circumstances

3.3
Access and
housing
affordability

The local community has the knowledge and skills to access affordable housing

Image: Kununurra social housing KMPL

Goal Background

Access to safe, appropriate and affordable housing is fundamental to the liveability, growth and long-term sustainability of the Shire. Housing plays a critical role in supporting community wellbeing, enabling residents to maintain stable living conditions, access employment, education and services, and participate fully in community life. It also underpins the Shire’s ability to attract and retain a stable workforce, which is essential for the delivery of local services, economic development and the ongoing functioning of the region. In remote communities such as Kununurra and Wyndham, making the availability of suitable housing a key determinant of both social and economic outcomes.

Findings from the 2026 Community Scorecard Survey reinforce the importance of housing as a priority issue for the community. Housing affordability, availability and suitability were consistently identified as areas of concern, with many residents indicating that housing challenges impact their ability to live, work and remain in the region long term. These results highlight strong community expectations for coordinated action to address housing constraints and improve overall liveability. The feedback provides clear evidence that housing is not only a planning and development issue, but a critical factor influencing community wellbeing, workforce stability and the future growth of the Shire.

Shire role

Advocate and partner to address inadequacies in respect to the availability, accessibility and suitability of housing

Strategies to achieve the goal outcomes:

S3.1	Advocate with key partners for increased and diverse housing supply that meets current and future community and workforce needs.
S3.2	Advocate for housing that responds to the East Kimberley climate and the different needs of people who live here.
S3.3	Support improved community understanding of housing pathways, including renting, buying and accessing available housing support.

Indicators of Progress

Community satisfaction with access to housing (out of 100)
Community satisfaction the Shire as a Place to live (out of 100)
Total number of dwellings available in the Shire (ABS)
Total number of dwellings within the rental market (ABS)
Total number of dwellings owned outright or with a mortgage (ABS)



Goal 4 Access to education

Education and training opportunities for everyone

A community with access to education and training opportunities that support wellbeing, participation and local economic prosperity.



Goal Outcomes:

4.1 Childcare and preschool programs

Increase participation in early childhood education through improved access to quality childcare and preschool programs.

4.2 Inclusive education pathways

Residents can access and participate in a broad range of educational opportunities, including alternative and flexible education pathways.

Goal Background

Access to education is a key priority for the Shire because it supports personal development, wellbeing, workforce participation and long-term community prosperity. Across the East Kimberley, access to early childhood education, schooling, training and tertiary pathways is influenced by service availability, workforce capacity, geographic isolation and socio-economic barriers. These challenges limit participation across life stages and contribute to skills shortages, youth disengagement and reduced economic opportunity. Improving access to education and training, including flexible and alternative pathways, is essential to building a skilled local workforce, strengthening community resilience and improving liveability across the region.

Community feedback and survey results show that education, training and lifelong learning remain important priorities. The 2024 Community Scorecard identified below-average satisfaction with access to education opportunities, while the 2026 Community Scorecard reinforced concerns about limited local education and training options and the need for expanded childcare, tertiary education, vocational training and lifelong learning opportunities. These consistent findings demonstrate ongoing community concern and confirm access to education as a continuing priority for the Strategic Community Plan.

Shire role

Advocate for education and training opportunities that help people respond to social and economic challenges and participate in the local economy.

Strategies to achieve the goal outcomes:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| S4.1 | Work with key partners to advocate for increased availability and access to early childhood education and care services across the Shire. |
| S4.2 | Work with key partners to advocate for a broader range of inclusive and flexible education and training opportunities across all life stages. |

Indicators of Progress

- | |
|---|
| Community satisfaction with access to education, training and life-long learning opportunities (out of 100) |
| Children who are developmentally on track on five or more AEDC Domains |
| Number of childcare places within the Shire (Current operating capacity) |
| Children waiting for a childcare place |
| Students enrolled in upper secondary education |



Goal 5

Access to employment

Inspiring meaningful growth and prosperity

A community with a strong and diverse local economy that creates employment opportunities and enables all residents to participate and benefit.

Goal Outcomes:

5.1
Business and job creation

The Shire is business friendly and the Shire of choice for inward investment in the Kimberley

5.2
Participate in the local economy

Residents have the opportunity and support to participate in employment and undertake business ventures

Goal Background

Access to employment is a priority for the Shire as it underpins individual wellbeing, economic participation and long-term community prosperity. A strong and diverse local economy provides opportunities for residents to secure meaningful work, build businesses and support their families. Across the East Kimberley, employment outcomes are influenced by the availability of local jobs and the ability of residents to access and sustain those opportunities. While key industries such as agriculture, mining, tourism and community services provide a foundation for economic activity, challenges including workforce shortages, limited business diversity, geographic isolation and barriers to participation mean that not all residents are able to benefit from local economic growth.

Community feedback and supporting evidence confirm that employment and economic participation remain priorities for the Shire. Residents highlighted concerns about limited job opportunities, barriers to business growth, and the need for stronger support for local businesses and entrepreneurs. Feedback also emphasised the importance of growing key industries while ensuring economic activity delivers local employment opportunities and lasting community benefit. Together, these findings reinforce access to employment and economic inclusion as continuing priorities for the Strategic Community Plan.

Shire role

Advocate for investment and business development that creates local employment opportunities and supports community participation in the local economy.

Strategies to achieve the goal outcomes:

- S5.1

Work with key partners to attract investment and support the development and growth of businesses that create sustainable local employment opportunities.
- S5.2

Work with key partners to increase workforce participation and support pathways into employment and business opportunities.

Indicators of Progress

- Community satisfaction with the Shire as a place to work or operate a business (out of 100)
- Unemployment rate
- Residents unemployed (registered)
- Residents engaged in the local workforce
- Gross Regional Product (GRP) of Local Businesses



Connection

Improving physical and social connectivity within the Shire. Utilising strong communication and travel links to improve connectivity with family, friends and services in Perth and beyond.

6 Accessible places

7 Connecting to the world

8 Connecting our cultures

Connectivity is about strengthening the links between people, places and communities across the East Kimberley and beyond. It includes the roads, airports and telecommunications that support movement and access, as well as the social and cultural connections that keep people linked to family, friends, services and opportunities. In a remote region, strong connectivity supports inclusion, participation, economic activity and access to essential services, helping residents, businesses and visitors stay connected locally, regionally and globally.

Strategic Projects

East Kimberley Regional Airport (EKRA)

The EKRA is an important transport link for residents of the East Kimberley region providing connections to family and friends. Upgrades will increase capacity and provide opportunity for airlines to offer the community cheaper flights, more destinations and greater frequency.

Arts and Culture Strategy

Develop and implement an Arts and Culture strategy that supports and promotes arts and culture in the community and aims to enhance social cohesion. The strategy will identify the role of the Shire and its partners in delivering arts and culture.



Goal 6 Accessible places

Places that are connected, accessible and well maintained

A community with connected, accessible and well-maintained places, supported by vibrant town centres that enable access to services, local businesses and community life.



Goal Outcomes:

6.1 Connected and accessible places

Places are connected by safe, accessible, well maintained roads, footpaths, cycle ways and trails.

6.2 Access to services

Attractive and resilient Town Centres that connect residents and visitors to shops and services

Goal Background

Access to services and well-functioning town centres are central to the Shire's liveability, connectivity and economic vitality. In a remote and dispersed region, access depends not only on infrastructure, but also on the quality, safety and attractiveness of places. Connected, well-maintained town centres support everyday needs, local business, tourism and community identity. Achieving this requires a focus on placemaking, activation and inclusive design so public spaces are welcoming, accessible and able to support both community use and long-term economic activity.

Community feedback and local evidence show that access to services and the condition of town centres remain key priorities for the Strategic Community Plan. The 2026 Community Scorecard identifies concerns about declining shops and services in both Kununurra and Wyndham, as well as issues with cleanliness, maintenance, safety and the overall town centre experience. In Wyndham, limited commercial activity and the loss of key businesses have reduced local service availability and vibrancy. In Kununurra, the range and quality of retail and commercial offerings is not seen as keeping pace with community expectations. These issues are compounded by limited amenity, poor walkability and safety concerns, which reduce the use and functionality of town centres. This evidence supports retaining Goal 6 and strengthening its focus on access, town centre revitalisation and sustainable local services.

Shire role

The Shire plans, provides and maintains connected and accessible places, and works with partners to improve the quality, vibrancy and functionality of towns and suburbs.

Strategies to achieve the goal outcomes

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| S6.1 | Plan, maintain and improve infrastructure to deliver connected, accessible and well-maintained places that enable easy movement between destinations.. |
| S6.2 | Improve the quality, activation and attractiveness of town centres, and work with partners to support access to services, local businesses and community life. |

Indicators of Progress

Community satisfaction with footpaths, trails and cycleways

Community satisfaction with local roads

Community satisfaction with Wyndham and Kununurra Town Centres

Goal 7

Connecting to the world

Creating access and turning our remoteness into a positive experience

A well-connected region where reliable transport and digital networks enable access to services, support economic participation, and enhance the experience of living in or visiting the East Kimberley.



Goal Outcomes:

7.1 Transport connections

People and goods are able to move freely in and out of the East Kimberley

7.2 Communications connections

Everyone in the Shire has access to high-speed, resilient and secure internet access

Goal Background

Reliable transport and communications networks are essential to connected, liveable and economically resilient communities across the East Kimberley. In a large and remote local government area, transport infrastructure supports the movement of people, goods and services, while digital connectivity enables access to services, employment, education and social connection. Together, these systems underpin regional functionality by supporting safe and efficient movement, reducing isolation and enabling participation in modern economic and digital life. Ensuring physical and digital connections are well planned, reliable and equitable is critical to sustainable growth, service access and community wellbeing across all towns and remote communities.

Feedback from the 2026 Community Scorecard highlights clear challenges across both transport and communications infrastructure. Transport, particularly local roads, emerged as a major concern, with residents expressing dissatisfaction with road maintenance approaches. The feedback also reinforces the need to advocate for greater resilience in the regional road networks that connect people, freight and services into and out of the Shire, particularly where seasonal conditions and limited alternative routes increase vulnerability to disruption. Feedback for telecommunications indicate that coverage, reliability and performance issues remain across the Shire. However, improvements in Kununurra, where additional mobile phone towers have expanded coverage to outer areas of the town are noted. Together, these findings reinforce the need to continue advocating for improvements across the region.

Shire role

To advocate for and support reliable transport and communications networks that connect communities and enable access to services

Strategies to achieve the goal outcomes

- S7.1

Advocate for the planning and funding of future transport infrastructure connecting to East Kimberley.
- S7.2

Advocate for investment in telecommunication infrastructure in the East Kimberley.

Indicators of Progress	
	Community satisfaction with airport
	Community satisfaction with telecommunications
	Wyndham Port Vessel visits
	Number of Passenger arrivals at the East Kimberley Regional Airport (EKRA)

Goal 8

Connecting our cultures

Celebrating and connecting our rich community, culture and heritage

A Shire where connected and culturally vibrant communities actively participate in community life and share a strong sense of identity, belonging, and cultural understanding.



Goal Outcomes:

8.1
Community participation

Active and resilient community groups and volunteers

8.2
Culture and art

Celebrate the East Kimberley's art, culture and heritage

Goal Background

Strong, connected communities rely on participation, cultural identity and shared experiences. In the East Kimberley, community groups, volunteers, cultural organisations, artists and local events help bring people together, strengthen social networks and support wellbeing. These connections are especially important in a large and remote region, where distance and isolation can limit social interaction and access to services. Arts, culture and heritage also reinforce local identity, celebrate diversity, and create opportunities for expression, learning and connection. Supporting community participation and cultural development is therefore essential to building inclusive, resilient and vibrant communities, and reflects the Shire’s role as a partner, facilitator and enabler of community life.

Community Scorecard 2026 results and feedback gathered through the SCP review confirm that participation, culture and community connection remain important priorities for residents. Feedback highlights the value of local events, community groups and volunteering in supporting social connection and wellbeing, while also identifying challenges such as volunteer fatigue, limited organisational capacity, cost, distance and access barriers. It also reinforces the importance of Aboriginal culture and leadership to the East Kimberley’s identity, and the need for culturally informed engagement and stronger partnerships with Aboriginal communities. The review also identified a gap in coordinated arts, culture and heritage planning, with no overarching framework currently guiding investment and activity. Together, these findings point to the need to strengthen community participation, better support volunteers and community groups, and provide clearer strategic direction through an Arts and Culture Strategy.

Shire role

Partner with community groups to bring our culturally diverse community together, creating vibrant and inclusive communities.

Strategies to achieve the goal outcomes

S8.1	Support active and inclusive community participation by strengthening community groups and building volunteer capacity.
S8.2	Strengthen arts, culture and heritage by supporting cultural participation, Aboriginal partnerships, and providing coordinated strategic direction.

Indicators of Progress

Community satisfaction with events, art and cultural activities (out of 100)
Community satisfaction with local history and heritage (out of 100)
% of Shire residents of 15 years and over volunteering (ABS)



Sustainability

Protecting and enhancing our spectacular natural environment and relaxed lifestyle, through sustainable growth and community-driven leadership.

9 Conserving country

10 Community-driven leadership

Sustainability means working together to ensure the East Kimberley remains resilient, prosperous and vibrant for future generations. It brings together responsible environmental management, long-term planning, community leadership and sound governance to guide change and protect the resources that support local communities. Through collaboration between residents, organisations and government, the Shire can support positive outcomes while conserving the region's distinctive natural and cultural values.

Strategic Projects

Strategic Land Use Planning

Undertake appropriate planning for urban area expansion, particularly for new industrial and residential development to provide for localitiespecific demand over the short, medium and longer term.

Waste Management Strategy

Determine future waste management and recycling facilities for Kununurra and Wyndham.

Advocacy Framework

Implement an Advocacy Framework to establish a structured method for engaging decision makers, shaping policy, and promoting community interests.

Partnership and Innovation Strategy

Develop and implement a Partnership and Innovation Strategy to building strong partnerships with stakeholders and drive innovation and positive change in the Shire.

Goal 9

Sustainable environment/ Conserving country

Protect and enhance our unique natural environment for generations to come

The Shire's natural environment is a defining asset that supports lifestyle, culture and sustainability. Conserving country requires practical environmental management and climate-resilient approaches, supported by strong partnerships across the region.



Goal Outcomes:

9.1

Protect and enhance our natural environment

Land, waterways and biodiversity are protected, restored and enjoyed responsibly.

9.2

Climate Resilience

Infrastructure and services are designed and managed to respond to climate and support sustainable living.

Goal Background

The East Kimberley’s natural environment is central to the Shire’s identity, lifestyle, culture, biodiversity, tourism and economy. Conserving country requires coordinated management of land, waterways and natural assets, alongside practical responses to climate and environmental change. This goal recognises the close link between environmental stewardship and climate resilience, and supports place-based action through waste management, land care, infrastructure planning and community engagement. As much of the region’s land is managed by the State Government, strong partnerships, advocacy and collaboration are essential to achieving long-term environmental outcomes.

Community feedback strongly supports protecting the natural environment and responding to climate challenges. The 2026 Community Scorecard identifies environmental management, conservation, climate action, waste management and stormwater as important service areas, with performance below industry benchmarks and clear expectations for improvement. Feedback also highlights local priorities including Lily Creek Lagoon, the Ord River, invasive weeds, litter, recycling, shade, cooling and climate-responsive infrastructure. Residents consistently value well-maintained natural areas, accessible foreshores and practical action to improve environmental outcomes. This evidence confirms that conserving country remains a high community priority and that Goal 9 should clearly reflect practical environmental management and climate resilience across the Shire.

Shire role

The Shire will develop and implement plans to protect our unique environment, while meeting current and future community land use needs.

Strategies to achieve the goal outcomes

S9.1	Work in partnership to implement cooperative programs to manage waste, land, fire, pathogens, introduced animals and weeds
S9.2	Actively address the causes and impacts of climate change

Indicators of Progress
Community satisfaction with conservation and environmental management
% cost of insurance above Rest of Australia
% waste diverted from landfill
Trees Planted
WALGA Climate Resilient Council (adaptation) Plan actions implemented
Hectares lost to Bushfire within the Shire



Goal 10

Community-driven leadership

Leaders work with the community to develop and implement change in delivering positive outcomes

A community where leadership empowers people, organisations and governments to work together to shape decisions, create opportunities and deliver positive outcomes for the East Kimberley.

Goal Outcomes:

10.1 Engagement

Community is engaged in decision making and has opportunities to influence matters that affect them

10.2 Partnerships

Collaborative partnerships that build capacity and create opportunities

10.3 Advocacy

Strong, evidence-based advocacy that advances local needs, priorities and opportunities

10.4 Innovation

Innovation and continuous improvement support effective governance and service delivery

Goal Background

Strong communities are built through participation, collaboration and shared responsibility. Community-driven leadership recognises that positive outcomes are achieved when residents, Traditional Owners, businesses, community organisations and governments work together to shape the future of the East Kimberley. The Shire supports this by encouraging community participation, building partnerships, advocating for local priorities and fostering innovative solutions that strengthen community wellbeing and resilience.

Community feedback from the Community Scorecard Survey 2026 highlighted strong support for the Shire’s role in advocacy, collaboration and community engagement. Residents identified the importance of being informed, having opportunities to contribute to decisions and seeing local priorities strongly represented to other levels of government. Feedback also highlighted growing expectations for transparent decision-making, regular communication and clear reporting on progress and outcomes, particularly in relation to housing, health services, community safety, infrastructure and economic development.

Shire role

The Shire will engage communities, build partnerships, advocate for local priorities and support innovation that strengthen participation, trust and community-driven outcomes.

Strategies to achieve the goal outcomes

S10.1	Strengthen community participation through transparent communication, regular reporting and opportunities to shape decisions and projects.
S10.2	Strengthen collaboration and partnerships to build community capacity and deliver shared outcomes
S10.3	Advocate for investment, services and policy outcomes that benefit East Kimberley communities
S10.4	Use innovation and continuous improvement to strengthen governance, communication and service delivery

Indicators of Progress

Community satisfaction with Shire communication
Community satisfaction with Shire leadership and advocacy
Formalised partnerships with other agencies such as Memorandums of Understanding (MoU)

Delivering the Plan



The Strategic Community Plan sets the community’s long-term vision and priorities for the Wyndham East Kimberley district, as identified by the community and its elected representatives. Delivering these outcomes requires the combined efforts of the Shire, residents, Traditional Owners, community organisations, businesses and government agencies. Through the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, the Shire works to align its services, projects, resources and decision making with the aspirations identified by the community.

Resourcing the Plan

The Corporate Business Plan translates community priorities into projects, services and actions over a four-year period. Supporting plans, including the Long Term Financial Plan, Asset Management Plan and Workforce Plan, help ensure the Shire has the financial, physical and human resources required to deliver community outcomes. Annual Budgets allocate resources each year to support implementation.

Reviewing and Monitoring Progress

The Strategic Community Plan is reviewed regularly to ensure it remains relevant and responsive to community needs. A minor review is undertaken every two years and a major review every four years with broader community engagement. Progress is monitored through the Corporate Business Plan and reported to Council and the community through quarterly and annual reporting.

Risk Management

Risk management supports the successful delivery of the Plan by helping the Shire identify, assess and manage potential threats and opportunities that may affect the achievement of Strategic Community Plan outcomes and Corporate Business Plan actions. This helps inform decision making, prioritise resources and support long-term organisational resilience.

The Shire’s Role

There are various roles that the Shire performs as a local government. The Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework groups these into the following:

Advocate

Proactively represent the community to other decision-making organisations.
For example: Promoting the interests of the community to organisations such as federal and state government.

Facilitator

Support others, to help make things possible.
For example: supporting the community to establish a Saturday markets

Funder

Providing funds or other resources.
For example: Providing community grants for not-for-profit community groups.

Leader

Planning and providing direction through policy and practices.
For example: Taking a leadership role in unifying the community.

Partner

Collaboration with external stakeholders to deliver services and projects.
For example: Working with other government agencies operating in the Shire.

Provider

Providing physical infrastructure and essential services.
For example: Providing swimming pools and managing waste.

Regulator

Undertaking responsibility for the enforcement of statutory requirements.
For example: Health inspections ensuring the safe provision of food.



Strategic Community Plan 2026-2036

Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley

