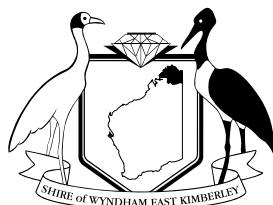


SHIRE OF WYNDHAM EAST KIMBERLEY

Strategic Community Plan

2026-2036



DRAFT
V1 R3



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 Yiji 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	
Draft 2025/26	Desktop/Minor Review	V1R3



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

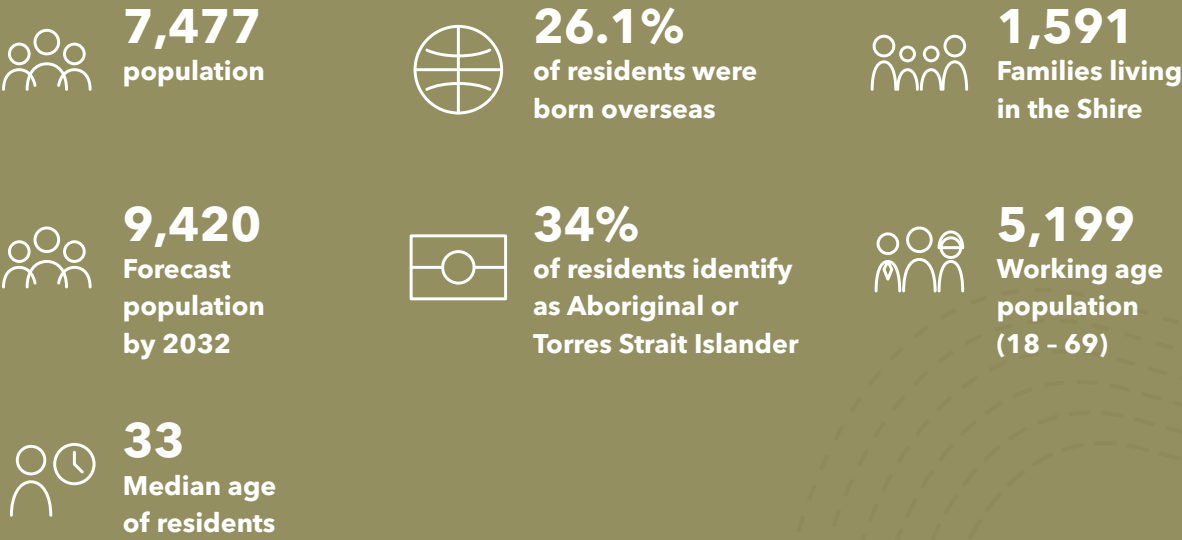
Kununurra

- 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 1 Safe Communities A community where we all feel safe



Outcome 1.1 Community Awareness

Strengthen community awareness of safety, crime prevention and emergency preparedness.

Community awareness is an important foundation for preventing crime, responding to emergencies and improving safety outcomes. When people understand local risks, know where to access support, and have the confidence to act, they are better able to contribute to safer homes, neighbourhoods and public places. In a regional and remote community, access to clear, timely and locally relevant information is particularly important.

The Shire works with government agencies, emergency services, community organisations and local residents to support community awareness and preparedness. This includes promoting safety information, encouraging community participation, supporting awareness initiatives and helping connect people with services and resources

1.1 Objectives

- 1.1.1 Improve access to clear, locally relevant safety and crime prevention information
- 1.1.2 Strengthen community capability to respond to safety risks and emergencies
- 1.1.3 Support coordinated, culturally appropriate safety awareness and engagement initiatives

Outcome 1.2 Safe Physical Environment

Plan, build and maintain safe public places that discourage crime and anti-social behaviour.

The design and condition of the built environment has a direct influence on safety, behaviour, and community participation. Well-designed, maintained, and activated public spaces can help deter crime and anti-social behaviour, while encouraging positive use and social interaction. In contrast, poorly designed or underutilised areas can contribute to perceptions of risk and reduce community use of public spaces.

The Shire has a leading role in planning, designing, and maintaining public places and infrastructure. This includes applying crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles in streets, parks, buildings, and public facilities. The Shire also works with key partners to ensure that spaces are well-lit, visible, accessible, and support

1.2 Objectives

- 1.2.1 Plan, design and maintain public spaces to reduce opportunities for crime and improve safety
- 1.2.2 Improve safety and perception of safety through lighting, activation, and maintenance
- 1.2.3 Deliver targeted, place-based initiatives in high-risk and priority locations

that contribute to community safety.

Why this matters for the community
A community that is informed and engaged is more resilient, better prepared to respond to challenges and more likely to take positive action to prevent harm. Strong awareness and participation help build community confidence, strengthen social connections and support a shared responsibility for safety.

active and positive community use.

Why this matters for the community
Safe and inviting public spaces support everyday activities such as walking, recreation, and social connection. When people feel safe in public environments, they are more likely to participate in community life, supporting both physical health and mental wellbeing. Creating safe environments reduces opportunities for crime, strengthens community confidence, and contributes to a more vibrant and connected community.

Shire Role updated:

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

Shire role statement:

The Shire works with government agencies, community organisations and stakeholders to support a coordinated approach to community safety. This includes contributing to crime prevention initiatives, delivering regulatory services such as ranger and animal control, supporting emergency management and preparedness, and advocating for services and initiatives that address the underlying drivers of safety and wellbeing across the East Kimberley.

Outcome 1.3 Families, Children and Young People

Families are supported, and children and young people are engaged, resilient, and connected to positive pathways.

Strong families and supportive environments are critical to positive outcomes for children and young people. Access to support services, education, and positive activities helps build resilience, life skills, and pathways for participation in the community. Without adequate support, young people may face increased risks of disengagement, anti-social behaviour, and poor long-term outcomes.

The Shire plays an advocacy and enabling role in supporting families, children, and young people by working with government agencies, schools, and community organisations. This includes advocating for services, supporting programs and initiatives,

and creating opportunities for positive engagement through community facilities, activities, and partnerships. The Shire also contributes to creating environments that support safe and inclusive participation for young people.

Why this matters for the community
Investing in children, young people, and families supports long-term community wellbeing and safety. When young people are engaged and supported, they are more likely to make positive choices and contribute to the community. This reduces future demand on services, strengthens social cohesion, and builds a safer, more resilient community over time.

1.3 Objectives

- 1.3.1 Advocate for early intervention and family support services that improve child development outcomes
- 1.3.2 Provide and support opportunities for positive youth engagement, participation, and development
- 1.3.3 Strengthen coordinated, place-based responses for at-risk children and young people

Outcome 1.4 Alcohol and Other Drugs

Less alcohol and drug related harm in the community

Alcohol and drug-related harm remains a significant contributor to community safety issues, including anti-social behaviour, crime, and health impacts. Addressing these challenges requires a coordinated approach that includes prevention, education, and access to appropriate support and treatment services. In regional communities, service availability and accessibility are often key challenges.

The Shire plays a key advocacy role in supporting improved access to services that reduce alcohol and drug-related harm. This includes working with State agencies, health providers, and community organisations to advocate for prevention programs,

treatment services, and community-based initiatives. The Shire also supports local efforts that promote awareness, early intervention, and harm minimisation.

Why this matters for the community
Reducing alcohol and drug-related harm improves safety, health, and social outcomes across the community. Lower levels of harm contribute to reduced crime, improved family wellbeing, and safer public spaces. Addressing these issues supports a stronger, healthier community and reduces the long-term social and economic impacts associated with substance-related harm.

1.4 Objectives

- 1.4.1 - Address alcohol misuse and antisocial behaviour in the streets
- 1.4.2 - Provide effective drug and alcohol addiction support services



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 2 Healthy Communities active, healthy lifestyles



Shire Role updated:

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

Shire role statement:

The Shire's role is to enable healthy, active and connected communities by advocating for improved services, planning and investing in accessible facilities and spaces, supporting local groups and clubs, and working in partnership to reduce barriers to participation and improve wellbeing outcomes across Kununurra, Wyndham and surrounding communities.

2.1 Access to health care

Improve access to quality health and community services

Access to health and community services is essential for maintaining and improving wellbeing. In regional and remote communities, access is often influenced by distance, service availability, and workforce constraints. These challenges can limit the ability of residents to receive timely and appropriate care, particularly for preventative and early intervention services.

The Shire plays an important role in advocating for improved service access and working collaboratively with key partners, including State agencies, health providers, and community organisations, to strengthen the local health system.

1.1 Objectives

- 2.1.1 - Improve access to primary and preventative health services
- 2.1.2 - Strengthen partnerships with health and community service providers
- 2.1.3 - Improve access for vulnerable and priority populations

Why this matters for healthy communities:

Improving access to quality health services supports early intervention, reduces preventable illness, and leads to better long-term health outcomes. When services are accessible and responsive to local needs, communities are healthier, more resilient, and better able to support vulnerable populations.

2.2 Access to sport and recreation facilities and services

Sport and recreation facilities and services are accessible and well maintained

Participation in sport and recreation is a key contributor to physical health, mental wellbeing, and social connection. Access to safe, inclusive, and well-maintained facilities allows residents of all ages and abilities to engage in active lifestyles and community life. In contrast, limited or poorly maintained infrastructure can reduce participation and contribute to inactivity and social isolation.

Why this matters for healthy communities:

Accessible and high-quality sport and recreation opportunities support active lifestyles, improve mental health, and strengthen community cohesion. Investment in infrastructure and programs enables people to connect, participate, and lead healthier lives, contributing to overall community wellbeing.

The Shire has a leading role in both providing and advocating for recreational infrastructure, as well as working with partners to deliver programs and opportunities that encourage participation across the community.

1.1 Objectives

- 2.2.1 - Provide and maintain accessible recreation infrastructure
- 2.2.2 - Increase participation in sport and active recreation
- 2.2.3 - Strengthen partnerships to deliver recreation opportunities

2.3 Access to community groups and clubs

Access to strong supportive community groups and clubs

Community groups and clubs play a vital role in fostering social connection, inclusion, and local identity. They provide opportunities for volunteering, cultural expression, sport, learning, and support networks that strengthen the fabric of the community. However, many groups face challenges including limited capacity, volunteer fatigue, and access to resources and facilities.

Why this matters for healthy communities:

Strong community groups and clubs create opportunities for connection, participation, and belonging. These networks support mental wellbeing, reduce social isolation, and build community resilience. Investing in their capacity helps create a vibrant and inclusive community.

The Shire supports these groups through funding, advice, and the provision and management of community facilities and reserves. Building the capacity of local organisations is key to ensuring their long-term sustainability and effectiveness.

1.1 Objectives

- 2.3.1 - Build the capacity of community groups and clubs
- 2.3.2 - Increase community participation and inclusion
- 2.3.3 - Provide and manage community facilities and spaces



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 | SSupport 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 3 Access to Housing



Shire Role updated:

Advocate and partner to improve the availability, accessibility and suitability of housing across the Shire.

Shire role statement:

The Shire's role is to advocate and partner with State and Federal governments, industry and community stakeholders to improve the availability, accessibility and suitability of housing. This includes supporting housing supply initiatives, facilitating enabling infrastructure, contributing to planning and policy development, and working collaboratively to address barriers to housing across Kununurra, Wyndham and surrounding communities.

Outcome 3.1 Housing Supply

The supply of housing meets current and future demand

Access to a sufficient and diverse housing supply is critical to supporting population stability, economic growth, and community wellbeing. In regional and remote areas, housing supply is often constrained by high construction costs, workforce shortages, land availability, and market limitations. These constraints can result in shortages of appropriate housing for key worker groups, families, and vulnerable populations, limiting the Shire's ability to attract and retain residents and services.

The Shire plays a key advocacy and facilitation role in supporting increased housing supply by working with State and Federal governments, developers, and regional partners. This includes advocating for investment, enabling planning frameworks that

support development, and collaborating with key stakeholders to identify barriers and opportunities for housing delivery. The Shire also supports strategic land use planning and infrastructure provision to enable future growth.

Why this matters to the community:

A sufficient and reliable housing supply underpins strong, stable communities. When housing demand is met, people are more likely to remain in the community, essential services can be sustained, and economic development can occur. Adequate housing reduces overcrowding, improves living conditions, and supports better physical and mental health outcomes, contributing to overall community wellbeing and resilience.

3.1 Objectives

- 3.1.1 – Advocate for increased housing supply to meet community and workforce needs
- 3.1.2 – Enable housing development through planning and infrastructure readiness
- 3.1.3 – Strengthen partnerships to deliver housing outcomes

3.2 Housing Design

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

Housing that is appropriately designed for local conditions supports long-term sustainability, safety, and liveability. In the East Kimberley context, this includes responding to extreme climate conditions, cultural considerations, demographic diversity, and varying income levels. Poorly designed housing can lead to higher maintenance costs, reduced comfort, and health risks, while limiting its suitability for different household needs over time.

The Shire advocates for housing design that reflects local environmental conditions and community needs, working with planning authorities, developers, and housing providers to promote best-practice outcomes. This includes supporting planning and development frameworks that encourage climate-responsive design,

accessibility, and cultural appropriateness. The Shire also plays a role in raising awareness of design standards and influencing development outcomes through local planning policies.

Why this matters to the community:

Well-designed housing improves quality of life by providing safe, comfortable, and functional living environments. Housing that responds to climate reduces energy costs and enhances resilience, while inclusive design supports people of all ages and abilities to remain in their homes. Culturally appropriate and adaptable housing strengthens community connection and ensures that homes remain suitable across changing life circumstances, supporting long-term health and wellbeing.

3.2 Objectives

- 3.2.1 – Promote climate-responsive and sustainable housing design
- 3.2.2 – Support inclusive and adaptable housing for diverse community needs
- 3.2.3 – Influence planning and development outcomes through policy and partnerships

3.3 Access and Housing Affordability

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

Access to affordable housing is influenced not only by supply but also by the ability of individuals and families to navigate the housing system. In regional communities, barriers such as limited market knowledge, financial constraints, and access to rental or purchasing pathways can restrict housing options. Without adequate understanding and support, residents may struggle to secure stable and affordable housing.

The Shire supports improved access to housing by promoting awareness of housing pathways and providing information that helps residents navigate the rental and home ownership markets. This includes working with partners to deliver education initiatives, sharing information on available programs

and services, and advocating for policies and support mechanisms that improve affordability and accessibility, particularly for vulnerable groups.

Why this matters to the community:

Affordable and accessible housing is fundamental to social and economic participation. When individuals and families can secure appropriate housing, they are more likely to experience stability, maintain employment, and engage in the community. Improved access to housing reduces stress, prevents housing insecurity, and contributes to better physical and mental health outcomes, supporting stronger, more inclusive communities.

3.3 Objectives

- 3.3.1 – Improve community understanding of housing pathways
- 3.3.2 – Reduce barriers to accessing affordable housing
- 3.3.3 – Strengthen partnerships to support housing access outcomes



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 4 Access to education



Shire Role updated:

Advocate for improved access to education and training that supports wellbeing and responds to social and economic challenges.

Shire role statement:

The Shire's role is to advocate for improved access to education and training opportunities that support wellbeing, workforce participation and community resilience. This includes representing local needs and priorities to government, education providers and other stakeholders to improve the availability, accessibility and quality of opportunities across all stages of learning.

Outcome 4.1 Childcare and preschool programs

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

This outcome focuses on increasing participation in early childhood education by improving access to quality childcare and preschool programs across the Shire. It recognises that the early years are critical to cognitive, social and emotional development, and that access to safe, supportive and culturally appropriate early learning environments helps children build strong foundations for lifelong learning and wellbeing.

The Shire advocates for improved availability, accessibility and quality of early childhood services. This includes facilitating partnerships with service providers, supporting infrastructure planning, advocating to State and Commonwealth agencies for investment and service continuity, and working with communities to identify local needs and

barriers to participation. The Shire may also support awareness initiatives and local planning to strengthen participation in early learning.

Why This Matters for the Community
Access to early childhood education supports stronger learning, health, social development and future economic participation. Across the Shire, better access to childcare and preschool helps families take part in work and training, reduces developmental vulnerability, and strengthens community resilience. Equitable access, particularly for remote and Aboriginal communities, is essential to achieving inclusive and lasting outcomes.

4.1 Objectives

- 4.1.1 – Advocate for increased childcare availability and capacity
- 4.1.2 – Support the provision and sustainability of childcare infrastructure
- 4.1.3 – Strengthen partnerships to improve access and participation

Outcome 4.2 Inclusive education pathways

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

This outcome focuses on ensuring residents can access a broad and inclusive range of education and training opportunities throughout all stages of life. It recognises that education pathways are not one-size-fits-all and supports flexible, alternative and non-traditional pathways that meet the diverse needs, aspirations and circumstances of individuals within the community.

The Shire supports inclusive education pathways through advocacy, coordination and local planning. This includes working with education providers, training organisations and regional partners to promote access to secondary, vocational and adult learning opportunities, and advocating for services that address local gaps. The Shire also plays a role in supporting initiatives that remove barriers to

participation, such as transport, access to facilities, and community-based learning opportunities.

Why This Matters for the Community
Access to a range of education pathways helps residents build skills, find employment, and contribute to the local economy and community life. Flexible and inclusive options are especially important in regional and remote areas, where traditional pathways may be limited. Supporting diverse learning opportunities helps retain young people, strengthen the workforce, and give all residents, including those at risk of disengagement, a fair opportunity to succeed.

4.2 Objectives

- 4.2.1 – Advocate for expanded education and training pathways
- 4.2.2 – Promote inclusive and flexible education pathways
- 4.2.3 – Address barriers to education participation through advocacy



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

Goal 5 Access to employment



Shire Role updated:

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

Shire role statement:

The Shire's role is to advocate for investment and business development that creates local employment opportunities and supports a strong and inclusive local economy. This includes representing community priorities to government and industry, promoting the region as a location for investment, and supporting initiatives that enable local businesses to grow and residents to participate in the economy.

Outcome 5.1 Attract businesses that create local employment

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

A strong and diverse local economy is supported by attracting and retaining businesses that create sustainable employment opportunities. The Shire is recognised as business-friendly, with settings that encourage investment and position the East Kimberley as a preferred destination for inward investment across key industries. A growing local business base contributes to a stable and resilient economy with increased job availability for residents.

The Shire plays a key role in creating the conditions for investment by providing clear and efficient planning processes, enabling infrastructure, and promoting the region to prospective investors and businesses. This includes supporting the establishment, retention and expansion of local businesses, advocating for enabling

infrastructure and services, and working in partnership with government and industry to drive economic development outcomes.

Why This Matters for the Community

Attracting businesses that generate local employment increases the number and diversity of jobs available within the community, providing pathways for residents to access meaningful work. This supports economic independence, strengthens household income, and contributes to overall community stability and growth. A thriving local economy also enhances the liveability of the Shire by supporting services, infrastructure and long-term prosperity.

5.1 Objectives

- 5.1.1 – Advocate for investment and business attraction
- 5.1.2 – Enable local business growth and sustainability
- 5.1.3 – Strengthen the local business environment
- 5.1.4 – Support local procurement and economic retention

Outcome 5.2 Residents actively participate in the local economy

All residents who want to participate in the workforce and undertake business ventures

All residents who wish to participate in the workforce or undertake business activities have the opportunity to do so. A community with high levels of workforce and economic participation is characterised by active engagement in employment, business development and local industry, contributing to a more inclusive and dynamic local economy. Opportunities exist for people at different life stages and from diverse backgrounds to participate in meaningful economic activity.

The Shire supports increased participation in the local economy by facilitating partnerships, advocating for employment and training opportunities, and supporting initiatives that reduce barriers to workforce participation. This includes working with local businesses, service providers and government

agencies to improve access to employment pathways, encourage entrepreneurship, and support residents to develop skills and capability aligned with local industry needs.

Why This Matters for the Community

Greater participation in employment and business strengthens the local economy and reduces reliance on welfare. Increased workforce engagement is linked to improved social outcomes, including reduced levels of disadvantage and associated issues within the community. Supporting residents to engage in economic activity contributes to improved wellbeing, stronger families and a more connected and resilient community.

5.2 Objectives

- 5.2.1 – Strengthen education-to-employment pathways
- 5.2.2 – Improve workforce skills and capability
- 5.2.3 – Reduce barriers to workforce participation
- 5.2.4 – Increase participation and inclusion in the local economy



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 6
Accessible places



Shire Role updated:

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.

Shire role statement:

The Shire’s role is to plan, provide and maintain infrastructure and public places that support connected and accessible communities, and to improve the quality, attractiveness and usability of town centres through design, maintenance and activation. It works in partnership with businesses, community groups and government agencies to support vibrant and sustainable places, and advocates for investment and services to improve access and support town centre revitalisation across the district.

Outcome 6.1 Connected and accessible places

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

Residents and visitors can move safely and easily between places, supported by well-maintained, connected and accessible infrastructure that enables everyday access to services, facilities and community spaces. This includes road networks, footpaths, public spaces and transport connections that are designed to be functional, inclusive and suitable for the local climate. Improving connectivity and accessibility ensures that people can participate in work, education, recreation and community life, regardless of age, ability or circumstance.

The Shire plays a key role in planning, delivering and maintaining local infrastructure that supports connectivity across the region. This includes maintaining roads, footpaths and public spaces, improving pedestrian and cycle networks, and integrating accessibility considerations into infrastructure design and upgrades. The Shire also works in partnership with State agencies and other

stakeholders to advocate for improved transport connections and infrastructure investment, while ensuring that local infrastructure is planned and maintained in a way that supports safe, reliable and accessible movement within and between communities.

Why this matters for the community
Connected and accessible places are essential to supporting independence, inclusion and everyday wellbeing. When infrastructure is safe, well-maintained and easy to use, it enables people to access services, participate in community life and remain connected to employment and social opportunities. In a regional and remote context, where distance and climate present additional challenges, improving connectivity helps reduce barriers to participation, supports more equitable access to services, and contributes to stronger, more resilient communities.

6.1 Objectives

- 6.1.1 – Maintain and improve core infrastructure
- 6.1.2 – Improve walkability and accessibility
- 6.1.3 – Deliver climate-responsive and place-based design
- 6.1.4 – Strengthen connectivity through advocacy

Outcome 6.2 Access to services

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

Town centres are attractive, safe and active places that provide access to services, support local businesses, and connect residents and visitors to shops, facilities and community life. These centres function as key community and economic hubs, with well-designed public spaces, quality streetscapes and a mix of uses that encourage activity throughout the day. Improving the quality, functionality and resilience of town centres supports both local service access and broader economic and tourism outcomes.

The Shire contributes to this outcome through the planning, design, maintenance and activation of town centres, ensuring that public spaces are clean, safe, functional and welcoming. This includes maintaining streetscapes and public amenities, supporting placemaking and activation initiatives, and working with local businesses, landowners and government agencies to encourage investment and improve the viability of commercial areas. The Shire also plays

an important advocacy role, seeking funding and partnerships to support town centre revitalisation, while prioritising foundational improvements such as maintenance, safety and amenity to enable long-term activation and development.

Why this matters for the community
Attractive and well-functioning town centres are central to community life in the East Kimberley. They provide access to essential services, support local businesses and create opportunities for social interaction, events and community connection. When town centres are safe, clean and vibrant, they improve community pride, encourage people to spend time locally and enhance the experience for visitors. Strengthening town centres also supports economic resilience by helping to retain services, attract investment and create more sustainable local economies, particularly in smaller and more remote communities such as Wyndham.

6.2 Objectives

- 6.2.1 – Improve town centre amenity and presentation
- 6.2.2 – Enhance safety and perception of safety (Note overlap with Goal 1)
- 6.2.3 – Activate and revitalise town centres
- 6.2.4 – Support local business and service viability
- 6.2.5 – Deliver place-based responses for Kununurra and Wyndham

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) |



Shire Role updated:

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

Shire role statement:

The Shire's role is to advocate for, enable and support the development of reliable transport and communications networks that connect communities across the East Kimberley. This includes delivering and maintaining local transport infrastructure, such as roads and active transport networks, while working with State and Commonwealth Governments and service providers to address broader regional connectivity challenges, including telecommunications coverage, capacity and reliability. The Shire plays a critical role in identifying priority needs, aligning local planning and infrastructure decisions, and using evidence from community feedback and performance data to support targeted advocacy for improved connectivity outcomes across all communities.

Outcome 7.1 Transport connections

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

This outcome seeks to strengthen safe, accessible and reliable transport networks that support the movement of people, goods and services across the Shire and between communities. It focuses on improving the condition, function and connectivity of roads, footpaths, cycleways and key transport routes, recognising that road deterioration and connectivity gaps can limit safe and efficient travel. Community feedback confirms that transport infrastructure remains a critical issue, with strong concern about road conditions, maintenance approaches and the reliability of key routes.

The Shire's role is to plan, deliver and maintain local transport infrastructure, while advocating to the State and Commonwealth Governments for investment in regional and strategic road networks. This includes prioritising local road maintenance and renewal, improving connections between key areas, supporting active transport infrastructure, and working with

partners to address constraints such as funding gaps and heavy vehicle impacts. The Shire also identifies priority projects and uses community feedback and data to support targeted advocacy for upgrades to critical transport corridors.

Why This Matters to the Community

Reliable, well-connected transport networks are essential to daily life in the Shire, enabling access to employment, education, services and recreation. Poor road conditions and limited connectivity increase travel times, create safety risks and add direct costs for residents through vehicle damage. In a remote regional context, effective transport infrastructure is also critical to economic activity, tourism and supply chains. Strengthening transport connections improves accessibility, supports community cohesion and builds regional resilience by helping people and goods move safely and efficiently across the Shire.

7.1 Objectives

- 7.1.1 - Improve the condition and reliability of local transport networks
- 7.1.2 - Strengthen connectivity between key places and communities
- 7.1.3 - Advocate for investment in regional and strategic transport infrastructure
- 7.1.4 - Support safe and accessible active transport options
- 7.1.5 - Improve resilience of transport infrastructure

Outcome 7.2 Communications connections

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

This outcome seeks to ensure that all communities in the Shire have access to reliable, secure and high-speed internet services that support daily life, business activity and essential service delivery. It focuses on improving the quality, resilience and reach of telecommunications infrastructure, particularly in remote and outlying areas where coverage and performance remain inconsistent. While digital connectivity is improving, ongoing gaps continue to limit full participation in modern digital services and opportunities.

The Shire's role is to advocate for better telecommunications infrastructure and services across the region, working with State and Commonwealth governments, service providers and regional partners to highlight gaps in coverage, capacity and reliability. This includes supporting initiatives that improve digital access for residents, businesses and visitors, ensuring local planning and infrastructure decisions support

stronger connectivity, and promoting equitable access across all communities. The Shire also uses community feedback and performance data to highlight service deficiencies and support evidence-based advocacy for improved outcomes.

Why This Matters to the Community

Reliable and accessible communications infrastructure is vital to economic participation, service access and community wellbeing in a remote regional setting. Gaps in internet speed, coverage and reliability can limit access to telehealth, education, emergency information and business services, particularly for communities outside the main townsites. Better digital connectivity reduces isolation, supports local businesses, enables flexible work and learning, and strengthens the Shire's resilience during emergencies and service disruptions.

6.1 Objectives

- O7.2.1 - Advocate for improved telecommunications coverage and reliability
- O7.2.2 - Advocate for improved capacity and performance of digital networks
- O7.2.3 - Support equitable access to digital connectivity
- O7.2.4 - Enable digital connectivity through planning and development

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)



Shire Role updated:

The Shire will lead and support community participation, volunteering, and arts, culture and heritage to build connected and culturally vibrant communities.

Shire role statement:

The Shire’s role is to lead and support community participation, volunteering, arts, culture and heritage across the East Kimberley. This includes partnering with community groups, Aboriginal organisations, artists, cultural practitioners and government agencies to build local capacity, reduce participation barriers and improve access to opportunities. The Shire also supports and recognises volunteers, facilitates collaboration, promotes inclusive and culturally informed engagement, and provides strategic leadership through planning, partnerships and advocacy, including the development and implementation of an Arts and Culture Strategy.

Outcome 8.1 Community participation

Active and resilient community groups and volunteers

Strong community groups, volunteers and local organisations help people connect, contribute and take part in community life. Across the East Kimberley, these groups support events, activities and services that build social connection, wellbeing and belonging. Strengthening their capacity and sustainability is essential to maintaining active, resilient and connected communities, particularly in a remote and dispersed region.

The Shire’s role

The Shire’s role is to enable community participation by working with local groups, volunteers and organisations to reduce barriers, build capability and support collaboration. This includes recognising volunteer contributions, improving access to funding, facilities, information and support, and helping ensure participation opportunities are inclusive and available across the Shire.

8.1 Objectives

- 8.1.1 – Reduce barriers and improve access to volunteering opportunities
- 8.1.2 – Strengthen the capability of community groups to attract and support volunteers
- 8.1.3 – Recognise and celebrate the contribution of volunteers
- 8.1.4 – Strengthen partnerships and coordination across the volunteering sector
- 8.1.5 – Improve the quality and sustainability of the volunteer experience

Outcome 8.2 Culture and art

Celebrate the East Kimberley’s art, culture and heritage

Arts, culture and heritage are central to the East Kimberley’s identity, reflecting its strong Aboriginal heritage, diverse communities and distinctive sense of place. Cultural expression, storytelling, creative activity and heritage recognition help bring people together, build understanding and strengthen community pride. Improving access to, and participation in, arts, culture and heritage will help ensure these values continue to support vibrant, inclusive and connected communities.

The Shire’s role is to support, connect and, where appropriate, fund or coordinate arts, culture and heritage initiatives in partnership with Aboriginal communities, artists, cultural organisations and the broader community. This includes promoting cultural participation, sharing local stories and identity, strengthening partnerships, and providing strategic leadership through the Arts and Culture Strategy. The Shire also supports culturally informed engagement, Aboriginal cultural leadership, and improved access to

8.2 Objectives

- 8.2.1 – Support the preservation and celebration of local culture, arts and heritage
- 8.2.2 – Strengthen partnerships with Aboriginal communities and support cultural leadership
- 8.2.3 – Improve access to and participation in arts, culture, and heritage activities
- 8.2.4 – Build the capacity and sustainability of local arts and cultural organisations
- 8.2.5 – Strengthen strategic planning and coordination of arts, culture, and heritage

cultural opportunities across the region.

Why this matters to the community

Arts, culture and heritage strengthen identity, belonging and pride, while supporting social cohesion across communities. In the East Kimberley, recognising and respecting Aboriginal culture and heritage is fundamental to community life and shared understanding. Cultural activities also create opportunities for connection, learning and expression, while supporting local creativity and economic participation. Strengthening this area will help ensure the region’s cultural identity is preserved, celebrated and accessible for current and future generations.



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 9 Sustainable environment



Sustainability



Shire Role in goal 9:

The Shire provides environmental services, manages Shire-controlled land, partners with stakeholders and advocates for investment to support healthy country and climate resilience.

Shire role statement:

The Shire's role is to deliver environmental services and help protect and enhance natural areas across the East Kimberley. This includes managing waste services, maintaining Shire reserves, and working with Traditional Owners, State agencies and community groups to improve land, waterway and biodiversity outcomes. The Shire also partners and advocates for investment to strengthen environmental management, improve access to natural places, and support practical climate resilience initiatives, while working within available resources and recognising that much of the region's land is managed by the State Government.

Outcome 9.1 Protect and enhance our natural environment

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

Strong community groups, volunteers and local organisations help people connect, contribute and take part in community life. Across the East Kimberley, these groups support events, activities and services that build social connection, wellbeing and belonging. Strengthening their capacity and sustainability is essential to maintaining active, resilient and connected communities, particularly in a remote and dispersed region.

The Shire's role is to enable community participation by working with local groups, volunteers and organisations to reduce barriers, build capability and support collaboration. This includes recognising volunteer contributions, improving access to funding, facilities, information and support, and helping ensure participation opportunities are inclusive and available across the Shire.

Why this matters to the community
Community participation helps people feel connected, included and supported, contributing to wellbeing and quality of life. In the East Kimberley, community groups and volunteering provide practical ways for residents to build relationships, share experiences and respond to local needs. Supporting participation also helps reduce social isolation, ease volunteer fatigue and strengthen community resilience.

9.1 Objectives

- 9.1.1 – Protect and restore waterways and natural environments
- 9.1.2 - Strengthen weed, pest and land management practices
- 9.1.3 - Improve waste, litter and environmental management outcomes
- 9.1.4 - Enhance access to and stewardship of natural places
-

Outcome 9.2 Climate Resilience

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

Arts, culture and heritage are central to the East Kimberley's identity, reflecting its strong Aboriginal heritage, diverse communities and distinctive sense of place. Cultural expression, storytelling, creative activity and heritage recognition help bring people together, build understanding and strengthen community pride. Improving access to, and participation in, arts, culture and heritage will help ensure these values continue to support vibrant, inclusive and connected communities.

The Shire's role is to support, connect and, where appropriate, fund or coordinate arts, culture and heritage initiatives in partnership with Aboriginal communities, artists, cultural organisations and the broader community. This includes promoting cultural participation, sharing local stories and identity, strengthening partnerships, and providing strategic leadership through the Arts and Culture Strategy. The

Shire also supports culturally informed engagement, Aboriginal cultural leadership, and improved access to cultural opportunities across the region.

Why this matters to the community
Arts, culture and heritage strengthen identity, belonging and pride, while supporting social cohesion across communities. In the East Kimberley, recognising and respecting Aboriginal culture and heritage is fundamental to community life and shared understanding. Cultural activities also create opportunities for connection, learning and expression, while supporting local creativity and economic participation. Strengthening this area will help ensure the region's cultural identity is preserved, celebrated and accessible for current and future generations.

9.2 Objectives

- 9.2.1 - Build climate resilience into infrastructure and planning
- 9.2.2 Improve urban cooling, shade and liveability
- 9.2.3 Reduce environmental impact and support sustainable practices
- 9.2.4 Strengthen partnerships and advocacy for climate action

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)

Goal 10 Community-driven leadership



Shire Role in goal 10:

The Shire's role is to engage communities, build partnerships, advocate for local priorities and support innovation that strengthen participation, trust and community-driven outcomes.

Shire role statement:

The Shire helps bring people, organisations and governments together to shape the future of the East Kimberley. By supporting meaningful community engagement, fostering partnerships, advocating for local needs and encouraging innovation, the Shire works with the community to address challenges, pursue opportunities and achieve positive outcomes for current and future generations.

Outcome 10.1 Community engagement

Community is engaged in decision making with opportunities to share their views on things that affect them

Community engagement supports informed decision-making by ensuring residents, businesses, Traditional Owners and stakeholders have opportunities to contribute to planning, service delivery and local priorities. Effective engagement helps build trust, strengthen community ownership and ensure decisions reflect local needs and aspirations.

The Shire's role is to facilitate meaningful and inclusive engagement, provide accessible information,

encourage participation and demonstrate how community feedback influences decisions and actions.

Why This Matters to the Community:

Communities are more likely to support decisions when they understand how they were made and have had opportunities to contribute. Meaningful engagement helps build trust, improves transparency and ensures community priorities are reflected in plans, services and investment decisions.

10.1 Objectives

- 10.1.1 Strengthen community participation, transparency and trust in local decision-making.
- 10.1.2 Improve communication and demonstrate how community feedback influences outcomes.

Outcome 10.2 Collaborative partnerships

Collaborative partnerships that build capacity and increase opportunities

Many of the opportunities and challenges facing the East Kimberley extend beyond the responsibilities or resources of any single organisation. Collaborative partnerships help bring together communities, Traditional Owners, government agencies, industry and service providers to achieve shared goals and improve outcomes.

The Shire's role is to lead, facilitate and participate in partnerships that strengthen community capacity,

improve coordination, leverage resources and support the delivery of long-term strategic outcomes.

Why This Matters to the Community:

Partnerships help attract investment, improve access to services and create opportunities that would be difficult to achieve independently. Strong collaboration enables communities to respond more effectively to complex social, economic and environmental challenges.

10.2 Objectives

- 10.2.1 Build strong partnerships that increase community capacity and deliver shared outcomes.
- 10.2.2 Improve coordination between stakeholders to address regional priorities.

Outcome 10.3 Advocacy

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

Many issues affecting the East Kimberley, including housing, health services, infrastructure, economic development and community safety, require decisions and investment from State and Federal Governments. Effective advocacy ensures local needs and priorities are represented and promoted to decision-makers.

The Shire's role is to advocate on behalf of the community, influence decisions that affect the region, build support for local priorities and secure investment,

partnerships and policy outcomes that benefit the district.

Why This Matters to the Community:
Advocacy helps ensure the unique needs of East Kimberley communities are recognised by other levels of government and funding bodies. Strong advocacy can improve access to services, infrastructure, investment and opportunities that support community wellbeing and regional development.

10.3 Objectives

- 10.3.1 Advocate effectively for investment, services and policy outcomes that benefit the East Kimberley.
- 10.3.2 Represent local priorities through evidence-based and collaborative advocacy.

Outcome 10.4 Innovation

Innovation and continuous improvement support effective governance and service delivery

Innovation supports the development of new ideas, technologies and approaches that improve governance, service delivery and community outcomes. It enables organisations and communities to adapt to changing circumstances and respond to emerging opportunities and challenges.

The Shire's role is to encourage innovation, continuous improvement and evidence-based decision-making, while exploring new technologies and approaches

that enhance services, communication, efficiency and community outcomes.

Why This Matters to the Community:
Innovation can improve the way services are delivered, make information more accessible and help solve complex challenges facing remote and regional communities. It supports a more resilient, adaptable and future-focused East Kimberley.

10.4 Objectives

- 10.4.1 Foster innovation and continuous improvement to improve services, communication and governance.
- 10.4.2 Apply technology and new approaches to address community challenges and opportunities.

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

