



Shire of Wongan-Ballidu Information Pack –Key Content

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Acknowledgements

The Shire of Wongan-Ballidu would like to acknowledge the Aboriginal people of the Wheatbelt as the traditional owners of the land and sea and acknowledge this to be Noongar country. We respect their spiritual relationship with the country and acknowledge the impact this has on Aboriginal health and wellbeing.

The Wongan Hills townsite name originates from the Aboriginal terminology, “Wongan Katta’, which translates to ‘Talking Hills”.

1 What is this document for?

The Shire of Wongan-Ballidu's Strategic Community Plan (SCP) is being reviewed. The Shire's SCP sets out the vision, aspirations and priorities for the area over the next 10 years. The SCP is the framework that guides everything we do at the Shire and ensures decision making is in line with community expectations.

The current SCP developed in 2012 and last reviewed 2017. A copy of the current draft of the plan can be found here: [Strategic Community Plan 2012 - 2021](#)

This document is a summary of our current understanding of the information, trends and challenges that will influence the SCP review.

We need your help to explore what these trends might mean for the Shire and to understand your unique insights and aspirations of our Shire's future.

2 How to get involved:

Community Survey: [Strategic Community Plan Review - Survey](#). Alternatively call 9671 2500 to have a printed copy posted to you or to complete the survey over the phone.

Community Workshop:

WONGAN HILLS

Wednesday 10 February 2021

6:00pm to 7:30pm

Community Resource Centre Function Room

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Wongan Hills

Community Workshop:

BALLIDU

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Ballidu Heritage Centre

Cnr Fairbank & Alpha Street

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Shire delivered One-on-Ones: During February and March 2021, Shire staff will be personally meeting with outlying community members and residents that may not be able to attend the community workshops. If you would like to be involved, call Meredith Lee-Curtis on 9671 2500 or via email shire@wongan.wa.gov.au.

Key questions this consultation is asking:

- What kind of community do you want to be part of in the Shire?
- What issues/opportunities does the revised next plan need to address?
- What is the role of the Shire in addressing these issues/opportunities?
- What is the role of the community members and other stakeholders in addressing these issues/opportunities?

3 What is a SCP?

A Strategic Community Plan (SCP) is part of the Integrated Planning Framework, which is a 10-year plan that all local governments are required to develop and periodically reviewed.

The SCP is developed in consultation with the community and is designed to;

- Establish the community's vision and aspirations for the local government's future, and
- Drive the development of local government area/place/regional plans, resourcing and other informing strategies, for example workforce, asset management and services, and

Elements of the Integrated Planning Framework



Source: Department of Local Government

4 The Consultation Process

At the last SCP review in 2017, we received input from 32 community members through attendance across three Community workshops, representing around 2.5% of the Shire's total population.

In 2020, the Shire is keen to engage more of the community. Our goal is to have at least 10% population representation in the 2020 SCP review. This means we are looking for at least 134 proactive residents / ratepayers / business operators to engage during the consultation process.

To achieve this goal the Shire is working with Aha! Consulting to design and facilitate the review process. Their extensive knowledge and experience will be applied to analysing all the information, including identifying gaps in current Council services.

The planned process involves, X key phases;

- **Preparing the baselines:** reviewing social, economic and environmental trends that will inform the planning process
- **Listen to the community:** Conducting community workshops, targeted interviews and online survey to gather and better understand community feedback.
- **Develop a Draft SCP:** Synthesise and present the inputs from the community to Elected Members and staff as part of developing a draft Shire of Wongan-Ballidu Strategic Community Plan
- **Gather community input:** circulate the draft plan for community review and input
- **Finalise SCP:** Refine the plan and present to elected members for endorsement in early 2021.

Following its endorsement, the Plan will be available electronically from the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu website, with hard copies available on request. This is in keeping with the Shire's waste reduction methodology.

5 Our Community

The Shire of Wongan-Ballidu is located in the centre of the Western Australian Wheatbelt.

The Shire covers an area of 3,368 km² and is bordered by the Shires of Dalwallinu to the north, Moora to the north-west, Victoria Plains to the south-west, Goomalling to the south, Dowerin to the south-east and Koorda to the east.

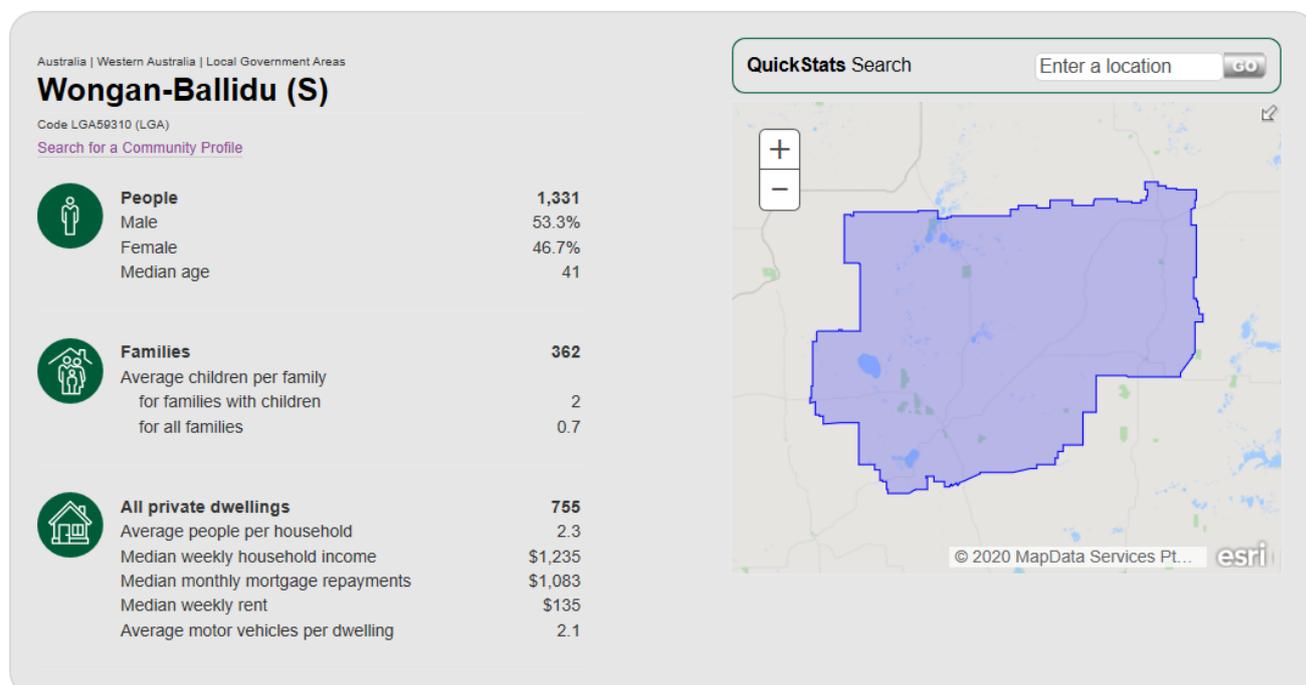
The Shire consists of undulating land with various soil types and granite outcrops. The climate is Mediterranean with an average yearly rainfall of 400mm, which mainly falls during winter and spring.

According to the ABS, in 2019 there were 202 businesses operating within the Shire, with 29.8% of these being Agriculture based.

Proximity to Perth, low crime rate and high level of servicing makes the Shire one of the most liveable Wheatbelt communities – as opportunity that we must work to capitalise on.

Local tourist attractions include the Mt Matilda, Christmas Rock Walking Trail, Dingo Rock, Mt O'Brien, Centenary Federation "Wheatbelt Lookout", Flat Rocks Nature Reserve, Reynoldson Reserve, Pioneer Museum and Lake Ninan.

2016 Census QuickStats



5.1 Our Towns

Wongan Hills is located in the northern Wheatbelt region, 182 km north of Perth. The area was settled by the 1900s, and in 1911 the town was gazetted and named after the surrounding range. The town is the administrative and service centre for the Shire with commercial, education, health and sporting facilities.

Ballidu is located 34 kilometres north of Wongan Hills. The town is a receival site for Cooperative Bulk Handling. The population is less than 100 people and facilities include a vibrant art community and gallery, community hall and a general store.

Burakin is a small town located 77km north east of Wongan Hills. Burakin is the junction for the branch railway line to Bonnie Rock. The town site was gazetted in 1928.

Cadoux is a small town located 47km east of Wongan Hills. The town site was gazetted in 1929 and the railway siding was opened in the same year.

Kondut is a small town located 22 km north of Wongan Hills. The town was originally a railway siding that was constructed in 1913 as part of the Dowerin to Mulloway line. The town site was later gazetted in 1917.

6 Our Current Plan

Vision: “Wongan-Ballidu - a caring and supportive community driving sustainability of agriculture, services and the environment.”

The 5 current themes:

6.1 COMMUNITY

This theme focuses on building a healthy, supportive and safe community.

The current SCP has sought to deliver Community outcomes by working to strategies that create, support and maintain:

- Sport, recreation and leisure opportunities that encourage community participation
- Health, education and family support services that sustain community well-being
- Advocating for access to services and facilities for the aged and disabled
- Community safety and emergency preparedness
- Services that support public and environmental health
- Opportunities for all people in the community to participate in cultural and social activities.

Performance against the current SCP 2012-2021:

- Completion of the \$4.5m Wongan Hills Sport, Community and Recreation Complex
- Attraction and recruitment of a Medical GP based in Wongan Hills
- Installation of CCTV in the Wongan Hills CBD

In the future we will need to consider how together we can:

- Ensure the quality of life of residents continues to improve despite projected changes to demographics over the coming decades, ensuring attention is given to the increasing ageing and culturally and linguistically diverse population.
- Ensure all people and groups have access to the same standards of service.
- Ensure all people and groups feel safe and included in the community.
- Ensure culture and heritage are maintained.
- Maintain appropriate emergency and disaster management plans.
- Ensure appropriate infrastructure is provided to allow for a broad range of healthy and inclusive activities for all of the population.

6.2 ENVIRONMENT

This theme focuses on protecting and enhancing natural assets.

The current SCP has sought to deliver Environmental outcomes by working to strategies that create, support and maintain:

- Protection of natural resources
- Adaptation to the impacts of climate change
- Environmentally sustainable waste management

Performance against the current SCP 2012-2021:

- Completion of Mocardy Dam Pipeline, which sees previously unutilised water piped into to Wongan Hills for use by the Wongan Hills District High School and the Shire
- Installation of Solar Power Systems on key Shire assets

In the future we will need to consider how together we can:

- Ensure appropriate investment in technologies and initiatives that increase energy efficiency and reduce reliance on non-renewable resources.
- Continue improvement in reducing, reusing and recycling waste and adopting new resource recovery technologies for better management of waste.
- Manage natural areas to maintain biodiversity
- Plan appropriately in response to possible climate change impacts.

6.3 ECONOMY

This theme focuses on building a strong and sustainable local economy.

The current SCP has sought to deliver Economic outcomes by working to strategies that create, support and maintain:

- A major agricultural hub
- A strong tourism industry
- A viable business sector
- A skilled and diversified workforce

Performance against the current SCP 2012-2021:

- Working with business to facilitate development and building approvals to increase commercial activity
- Significant support of the Wongan Hills Tourism Group
- Becoming one of the founding Astrotourism WA towns
- Installation of CCTV in the Wongan Hills CBD
- Provision of residential rental properties to assist with attraction and retention of employees

In the future we will need to consider how together we can:

- Facilitate an increase in jobs to bring more people to our community
- Use land zoning and infrastructure construction to attract and support new and existing businesses and take advantage of our strategic location.
- Work effectively with state, federal and non-government agencies to support economic growth.
- Market, promote and remain competitive to attract business and infrastructure investment.
- Take advantage of tourism opportunities.

6.4 INFRASTRUCTURE

This theme focuses on providing Shire infrastructure and a built environment that supports growth of the community and economy.

The current SCP has sought to deliver Infrastructure outcomes by working to strategies that create, support and maintain:

- Shire assets and infrastructure that meet current and future needs
- Access to affordable land for residential housing and industrial development
- Secure and reliable water supply
- An efficient and safe road and rail network
- Shire buildings and facilities that meet community needs
- Development that protects the character of towns and local heritage
- Attractive streetscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens

Performance against the current SCP 2012-2021:

- Completion of the \$4.5m Wongan Hills Sport, Community and Recreation Complex
- Rationalisation of public buildings to better meet community needs, such as utilising Ballidu Community Hall and transferring ownership of the Wongan Hills Masonic Lodge
- Sale of blocks in the Shire's Shields Crescent subdivision

In the future we will need to consider how together we can:

- Increase focus on environmentally sensitive construction and sustainable maintenance of infrastructure, considering whole of life costs.
- Address increasing costs of building and maintaining public facilities and open space.
- Ensure existing infrastructure is maintained to a high standard or modified to meet new community needs, as necessary.
- Advocate for a range of housing options to be made available to the community.

6.5 ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP

This theme focuses on the Shire's good governance and an efficient organisation that shows leadership and advocates on behalf of the Shire.

The current SCP has sought to deliver Advocacy and Leadership outcomes by working to strategies that create, support and maintain:

- Good governance and leadership
- The Shire being seen as an employer of choice
- Efficient and effective corporate and administrative services

Performance against the current SCP 2012-2021:

- Improving capability and capacity of staff, including creating new positions
- Providing transparent and accountable leadership

In the future we will need to consider how together we can:

- Ensure we remain open and adaptable to new technology.
- Engage with stakeholders using both traditional and new methods to ensure all demographics are represented.
- Manage cost shifting from other levels of government to ensure local services are not compromised.
- Manage changing expectations and build trust between the community, local government and other organisations.
- Ensure the needs of the present are met without compromising the needs of the future.
- Remain financially sustainable through efficient and effective service delivery.

7 Get Involved!

Where and how to get involved in the conversation

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