



# NEWSLETTER

## Wongan-Ballidu

### TV RETRANSMISSION SERVICE DECOMMISSION – REMINDER

This is a reminder to the community that, at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 27 November 2024, Council resolved to decommission the TV retransmission service, effective from 23 June 2026.

This decision has been previously advertised and communicated, and is being shared again to ensure residents continue to have ample time to plan and make alternative arrangements ahead of the decommissioning date.

#### WHY IS THIS SERVICE BEING DECOMMISSIONED?

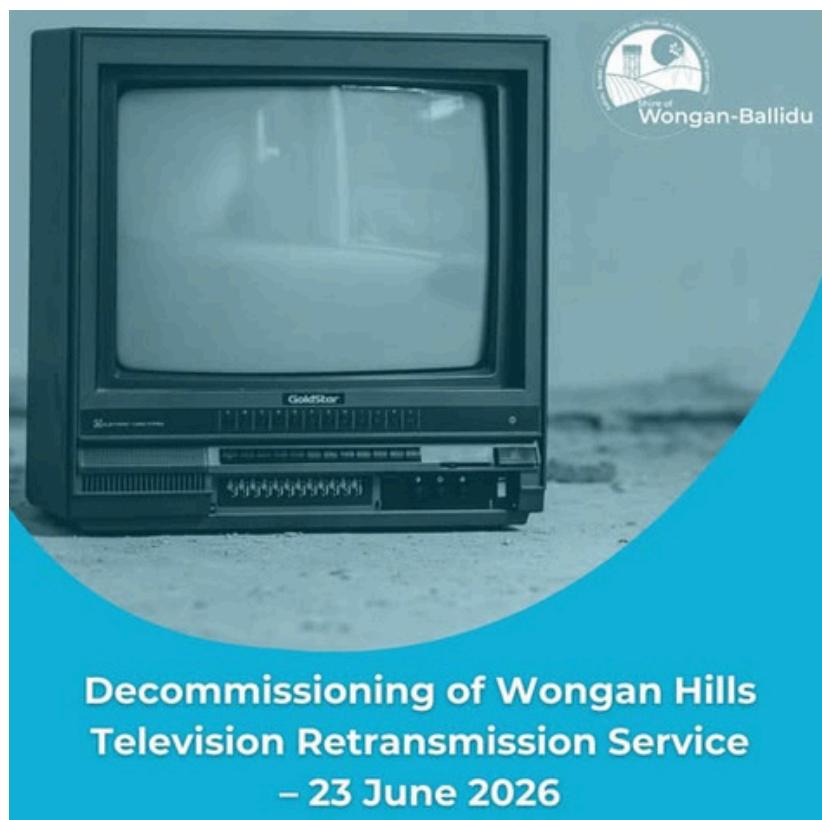
As outlined in the letter sent to impacted ratepayers, the decision was made taking the following factors into consideration:

- The service is no longer economically viable, resulting in a net cost of -\$435,865 to the Shire since its inception, and ongoing maintenance and upkeep costs continue to increase due to the technological challenges.
- Only a small number of ratepayers use the service, however, all ratepayers are contributing to the cost through annual rates. (94 properties declared they used this service in a recent survey whilst the Shire currently has 905 rateable properties.)
- It is only available to Wongan Hills townsite properties with close enough proximity to the tower and no line-of-sight issues, thus this service is not available to many ratepayers.
- The Shire acknowledges that, in particular over the past few years, this service has been operating inconsistently. The issue that is faced is that the quality and consistency of this service is out of the Shire's control with the technology being outdated.
- The service provider is based in Queensland, causing delays in addressing on-site issues and increases the service instability. It is not economically viable to engage another service provider.
- The Shire's retransmission licences expire on 22 June 2026, making this the most practical timeline, whilst also providing residents with 18 months' notice from the first notice.

#### WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Our TV Decommission Information Sheet is available via our website, and at the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu and Wongan Hills CRC Customer Service Centre.

[www.wongan.wa.gov.au/build/major-projects/decommissioning-of-wongan-hills-television-retransmission-service.aspx](http://www.wongan.wa.gov.au/build/major-projects/decommissioning-of-wongan-hills-television-retransmission-service.aspx)





# NEWSLETTER

## Wongan-Ballidu

### NEW SCHOOL ATTENDANCE SWIMMING POOL PASS INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The Shire is pleased to announce a new partnership with Wongan Hills District High School, adopted at the December Ordinary Meeting of Council, aimed at improving school attendance while building essential swimming and water safety skills for our young people.

During the 2026 school year, students at WHDHS who achieve the program's attendance target of 85% across Terms 1, 2 and 3 will be rewarded with a child season pass to the Shire Swimming Pool for the 2026/2027 pool season, opening in October 2026.

The cost of each pass will be shared between the Shire and the school, helping to reduce financial barriers for families while encouraging consistent school attendance.

This initiative recognises the strong link between regular attendance, improved educational outcomes, and lifelong skills, while also promoting water safety, health, and social connection through increased access to the pool.

Wongan Hills District High School will manage and monitor attendance, with eligible students receiving a certificate prior to the pool season. Certificates can then be exchanged at the Shire for a season pool pass.

We look forward to seeing our students rewarded for showing up, staying engaged, and giving school their best!



### LOCAL ART COMING TO OUR PUBLIC SPACES

The Shire of Wongan-Ballidu is excited to be working with local artists through an agreement with Ballidu Contemporary Art Society (BCAS) to showcase artworks in Shire buildings such as the CRC Function Room.

Through this new artwork initiative, artworks will be loaned to the Shire for public display, helping to celebrate local creativity, add colour to our shared spaces, and give residents and visitors the chance to enjoy art as part of everyday life.

We're proud to support local artists and thank the BCAS for partnering with us to bring this initiative to the community.

Keep an eye out when you're visiting and take a moment to enjoy the talent right on our doorstep!



# NEWSLETTER

## Wongan-Ballidu

### WONGAN HILLS WASTE FACILITY UPDATE

After 10.5 years managing the Wongan Hills Waste Facility, Paul and Wendy have decided it's time to step back and enjoy a slower pace. We sincerely thank them for their long-standing service, dedication and the care they have shown our community over the years. Their contribution has been greatly valued.

The Shire of Wongan-Ballidu has now assumed full management of the Wongan Hills Waste Facility.

Over the coming months, a number of changes will be introduced as we work to strengthen operations and services. We appreciate your patience and cooperation during this period.

#### **Opening hours:**

8.30am-12.00pm, 12.30pm-4.30pm

Thursday - Sunday

Please note: drumMUSTER drop-off will be unavailable for the month of February.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

## WONGAN HILLS WASTE FACILITY



### CALLING ALL AQUA AEROBICS INSTRUCTORS

**We are seeking enthusiastic instructors to deliver 1-2 classes per week at the Wongan Hills Memorial Swimming Pool through to the end of the pool season.**



### CALLING ALL AQUA AEROBICS INSTRUCTORS

Do you have experience running aqua aerobics classes and a passion for keeping the community active?

The Shire of Wongan-Ballidu is seeking enthusiastic instructors to deliver 1-2 classes per week at the Wongan Hills Pool through to the end of the pool season.

It's a great opportunity to support local health and wellbeing while leading fun, low-impact fitness sessions for our community.

If you're interested or would like more information, please get in touch with us.

**9671 2500**  
**[shire@wongan.wa.gov.au](mailto:shire@wongan.wa.gov.au)**



# NEWSLETTER

## Wongan-Ballidu

### WELCOME FRAN OUR NEW CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICER

We're pleased to welcome Fran Barnett to the team as our new Customer Service Officer.

Fran and her husband recently moved to Wongan Hills in search of a quieter lifestyle, with less time spent commuting and more time enjoying what regional living has to offer. Country life is nothing new to Fran, who was born and raised in Narembeen.

Fran met her husband Ian while backpacking and working in England, including stints picking mushrooms. After falling in love, the couple married in Australia before returning to England, where they raised their two sons. In 2001, the family made the move back to Australia permanently.

Now, with both boys grown and living out of home, Fran and Ian were ready to start a new chapter. They moved to Wongan Hills in October, with Ian now working at Boekeman Machinery.

Outside of work, Fran enjoys going to the gym, hiking, and exploring the many walking trails and natural spaces throughout the Shire.

***Please join us in giving Fran a warm welcome when you see her at the front counter.***



### STRATEGIC PLANNING OUTCOME ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Thank you to everyone who took part in our recent community engagement sessions and survey for the Strategic Community Plan (SCP) and Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) review. Your feedback has helped shape the priorities and direction for the future of the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu.

We now invite community members to attend a follow-up session to hear the outcomes of your input and learn more about the strategic direction of the Shire for the coming years, presented by our consultants.

**Wednesday 18th February  
5.30pm start  
CRC Function Room**

We hope to see you there as we share what we heard and where we're heading next.

### Strategic Planning Outcome Engagement Session

**Strategic Community Plan  
and  
Disability Access and Inclusion Plan**

 **Wednesday 18th February**  
 **5.30pm start**  
 **CRC Function Room**





# NEWSLETTER

## Wongan-Ballidu

Eligible kids can now get a **maximum of a 3 month pass** at participating regional pools through KidSport!

Find out if your child is eligible and where it's offered



[cits.wa.gov.au/regional-pools](http://cits.wa.gov.au/regional-pools)



**KIDS** KIDSPO<sup>RT</sup>

## FREE KIDSPO<sup>RT</sup> POOL PASS NOW AVAILABLE

Is your child between the ages of 5-18 and holds a valid health care or pensioner concession card?

Head to the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu and Wongan Hills CRC Customer Service Centre to apply and grab your FREE KidSport Pool Pass for the Wongan Hills Memorial Swimming Pool which is now available.

**Please bring your valid concession card.**

Any questions, please feel free to call us on 9671 2500.



## HARVEST BAN SMS SERVICE

[www.wongan.wa.gov.au](http://www.wongan.wa.gov.au) to sign up now!  
Or visit the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu Customer Service Centre

## CURRENT ROADWORKS



**CONSTRUCTION CREW** – Dowerin Kalannie Road Reconstruction.



**MAINTENANCE GRADERS** – Bus Routes. Drains And Offshoots On Bitumen Road Network.



**MAINTENANCE CREW** – Various Locations Signs/Guide Post Maintenance And Seal Repairs.



**TOWN MAINTENANCE** – Street Tree Pruning And General Maintenance.

*All Above Worksites Will Be Under The Direction Of Traffic Management.*

## Upcoming Office Closures

- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February - 9am-10.30am

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

### Annual General Meeting of Electors

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February - 6pm - Wongan Hills CRC Function Room.

## STAY IN TOUCH

📞 08 9671 2500

🌐 [www.wongan.wa.gov.au](http://www.wongan.wa.gov.au)

✉️ [shire@wongan.wa.gov.au](mailto:shire@wongan.wa.gov.au)

📍 Shire of Wongan-Ballidu & Wongan Hills CRC Customer Service Centre

"The Station"

1 Wongan Road (PO Box 84)

WONGAN HILLS WA 6603

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram



## SIGN-UP FOR SHIRE E-NEWS

[www.wongan.wa.gov.au/forms/sign-up-to-the-shires-e-newsletter!/24](http://www.wongan.wa.gov.au/forms/sign-up-to-the-shires-e-newsletter!/24)