



**STRATEGIC  
COMMUNITY PLAN  
2020 – 2030**

A place for community,  
opportunity, and  
prosperity

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## President's Message

The Shire of Meekatharra's Strategic Community Plan maps out our vision and represents a clear direction for the next ten years.

The Plan will serve as the key strategic planning tool and it contains the primary aims, strategies and priorities to advance the Shire's vision of a "place for community, opportunity, and prosperity".

My thanks go to the members of the community who played a vital role in providing the input and ideas via workshops, one on one meetings and responding to a questionnaire. Elected member input needs to be recognised, which revealed a close alignment with the community's aspirations.

In implementing this Plan and maintaining its relevance through regular reviews, the objectives of the Strategic Community Plan will be effectively delivered by working in partnership with the community, other Shires, State and Commonwealth Governments, and the private sector.



Harvey Nichols, Shire President



## Introduction

This Strategic Community Plan (SCP) was developed to guide the Shires planning into the future.

Under section 5.56(1) of the Local Government Act 1995, this SCP is the overarching strategic document for all Local Government and forms the centre piece of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

This plan sets a new vision for the Shire, to be a place for community, opportunity, and prosperity.

The vision and priorities outlined in this plan are the result of community consultation conducted in 2019/2020 and reflect the current priorities and needs of the community.



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## About the Shire of Meekatharra

### Our Area

The Shire covers an area of 100,733 square kilometres. The Shire consists of three localities being Meekatharra, Peak Hill and Nannine; two aboriginal communities of Yulga Jinna and Buttah Windee; and the aboriginal education centre of Karalundi. Meekatharra contains the majority of the population. Within the Shire there are numerous facilities, including the sporting complex and gymnasium, youth centre, swimming pool, squash court and a regional airport.

### Our Economy

The local economy is based on a mix of mining, retail, manufacturing, construction, and pastoral farming. There is limited retail industry, but a sound commercial base, with local businesses remaining relatively constant. The area has a series of tourist attractions and provides a unique lifestyle choice.

The future economic viability of Meekatharra is optimistic, but significantly dependent upon the mining sector, which is a major risk. This reliance has been considered in the plan.

### Our People

The population of 1,067 (2016 Bureau of Statistics) indicates a declining population, driven mostly by job opportunities in the mining sector and associated industries. The population is diverse in nature with both international influences and a significant indigenous population.

### Our Environment

The local environment is valued, supporting quiet, simple and peaceful lifestyle choices. The remoteness, wide open spaces and natural environment needs to be sustained. Viable pastoral farming land is highly valued and needs to be maintained. Any tourism projects need to be mindful of environmental impacts.

### Our Key Challenges and Risks

Our Plan needs to consider and manage our identified risks and local issues. Issues identified and addressed include:

- Significant reduction in Mining Activity
- Withdrawal/reduction in Government Services
- Significant changes in demographics
- Changes to Legislation and Government Policy
- Resident retention
- Community Safety
- Economic capacity

### Our Resourcing Capability

An important context to this SCP is the financial resourcing of the Shire. Our capacity to grow our revenue streams are limited to our ability to source external funding from grant programs and how much our community can sustain in the way of rate increases.

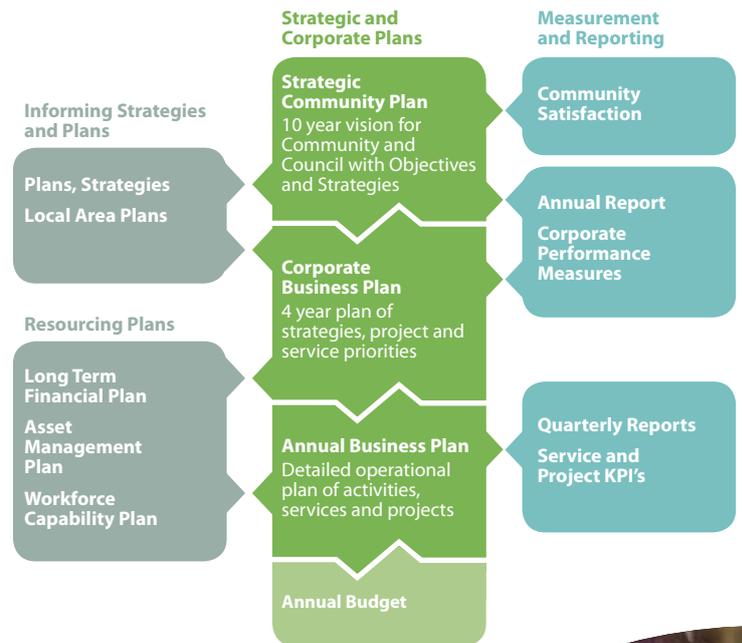
Some of the priorities listed in this Plan are contingent upon external grant funding and the Council will be working hard to secure these funding sources so we can deliver our communities' outcomes.

## The Integrated Strategic Planning Framework

The Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework (IPRF) assist local governments in ensuring the aspiration and needs of their communities are woven through all of the organisation's planning and monitoring.

The Shire places the Strategic Community Plan (SCP) as a visionary document for the next 10 years. The Corporate Business Plan identifies what we will achieve in the shorter term.

Implementing this plan will demand that the Shire not only continues to deliver and represent the community, but recognizes that we can't deliver alone. We will work in partnership with other Shires, State and Federal Governments and the private sector to advocate the delivery of our plan.



## How this Plan was Developed

The original plan was developed in 2012 and then reviewed in 2017. The planning process was informed by research across the quadruple bottom line (cultural, economic, environmental and social). This included a review of the external Commonwealth and State Government plans. As well as reviews of the long-term demographic changes, impacts, risks and challenges facing our community, ensuring we are a sustainable and growing community.

In 2019/2020 a major review of the SCP was conducted. This review included;

- An online survey was delivered via the Survey Monkey platform, distributed via the Shire website, targeted email, and social media platforms. This method of consultation received 11 responses.
- Advertisements were placed offering one on one interviews for interested community members and the Community & Development Services Manager. Questions from the online survey were discussed and expanded upon. There were 24 interviews completed.
- A community event was held at the Meekatharra Town Hall, facilitated by Aha Consulting with approx. 45 attendees.

The community feedback was analysed and themed to create a vision of community aspirations and needs, as captured in this Plan.

A draft of this Plan was then circulated to the community via social media, emails and community notice boards, with the invitation for community members to review its contents and ensure that it was truly reflective of their vision for the future.

## Our Vision

A place for community, opportunity and prosperity.

## Our Mission

To be an efficient and influential Local Government that contributes to the healthy, prosperous and connected community of Meekatharra.

## Objectives - Our Vision in Action

We will work towards our vision through the following objectives across five domains;

1. **Social** – Contribute to a community that is connected, healthy, and engaged in creating the future they want
2. **Natural Environmental** – Maintain and preserve the natural environment, enhancing the 'remote' experience of Meekatharra.
3. **Built Environment** – Deliver and maintain assets and infrastructure that respond to community need
4. **Economic** – Encourage a diversity of locally operating businesses to maximise employment opportunities
5. **Governance** – Ensure effective, efficient use of Shire resources and provide leadership for the community



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## Community Priorities in Each Objective

**Social** – Contribute to a community that is connected, healthy and engaged in creating the future they want.

OBJECTIVES	PRIORITIES
Build community participation, interactions and connections.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage and support community participation in sporting clubs, events and community activities.</li> <li>• Encourage and support the community to volunteer and self-manage new sporting and community activities.</li> <li>• Create spaces for the community to interact (eg: games night at the community hall).</li> <li>• Prioritise projects that bring people together and strengthen community connectedness.</li> <li>• Provide opportunities to listen and involve the community in decisions that affect them.</li> </ul>
Enhance Youth Services Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement a Youth Services Strategy.</li> <li>• Monitor operation of Youth Services to meet community needs.</li> </ul>
Positively impact the social health and wellbeing of the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a Local Public Health Plan.</li> <li>• Facilitate increasing information and advice promoting child safety.</li> <li>• Advocate for external service providers to respond to family and domestic violence needs of the community.</li> </ul>
Develop a safe, secure community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the need for CCTV services in strategic locations as identified to be cost effective or of a nature that improves security of community assets.</li> <li>• Review existing street lighting to ensure adequacy and service.</li> </ul>
Ensure access to services and facilities as needs change within the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement service plans that detail the aim, level and frequency of service, and partnerships required to deliver services within Shire control.</li> <li>• Advocate for retention and improvement to health and education services.</li> <li>• Advocate widely for the upgrade/replacement of the Meekatharra Hospital.</li> </ul>

**Natural Environment** - Maintain and preserve the natural environment, enhancing the 'remote' experience of Meekatharra.

OBJECTIVES	PRIORITIES
Maintain and preserve the natural environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and maintain parklands.</li> <li>• Enhance areas of native vegetation (with informative signage) to provide a unique tourism experience in town whilst keeping water usage to a minimum.</li> <li>• Develop and implement drive trails in the region.</li> <li>• Research and investigate the potential for a canyon trail and bridge.</li> </ul>
Identify opportunities to use renewable resources and reduce waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop options to manage the efficient use of water and energy.</li> <li>• Explore options to reduce, reuse and recycle waste.</li> <li>• Encourage and support community sustainability programs.</li> <li>• Examine potential and feasibility of introducing waste recycling in town.</li> </ul>

**Built Environment** – Deliver and maintain assets and infrastructure that responds to community need.

OBJECTIVES	PRIORITIES
Beautification of community spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement landscaping/street scaping plan in main street area and at strategic locations.</li> <li>• Develop active and passive recreation parklands strategy.</li> </ul>
Upgrade and maintain local infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide facilities to support community driven programs and activities.</li> <li>• Develop a Facilities Use Strategy.</li> <li>• Review and continue to implement Asset Management Plans including roads, footpaths, buildings and structures.</li> <li>• Maintain the Meekatharra Airport to ensure ongoing capability for regular passenger transport services.</li> <li>• Install cabling for high speed wireless internet to Shire facilities, allowing third party providers to develop their own infrastructure and offer services to the wider community.</li> </ul>
Facilitate the upgrading and maintaining of State Road Infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for the upgrading of the Wiluna-Meekatharra section of the Goldfields Highway to a sealed standard.</li> <li>• Continue to upgrade and seal Landor-Meekatharra Road and advocate for the sealing of the Wiluna - Meekatharra-Carnarvon regional link.</li> </ul>
Create land use capacity for industry and housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Local Planning Scheme and Local Planning Strategy to ensure commercial and industrial opportunities are maximised.</li> <li>• Review Local Planning Scheme and Local Planning Strategy to ensure housing and land choices are available.</li> <li>• Continue to plan and develop further areas for new industrial opportunities.</li> </ul>

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**Economic Development** - Encourage diverse business and maximise employment opportunities.

OBJECTIVES	PRIORITIES
Build the economic base through diversification and support of local businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage new businesses through information, incentives and land-use provision.</li> <li>• Advocate for mining companies to construct accommodation facilities adjoining the town.</li> <li>• Advocate for passenger transport services to be maintained at adequate levels.</li> <li>• Assist businesses in attracting workers to the region by exploring housing options.</li> </ul>
Position the Shire as the regional hub for the Murchison region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocating to be a hub for services and facilities e.g. transport, car hire, banking, health etc</li> </ul>
Maximise our economic potential through our historical, tourism and cultural attractions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to promote Lloyd's Plaza as a Tourist/Museum/Cultural Centre.</li> <li>• Build tourism capability through events, arts, history and cultural experiences.</li> <li>• Encourage and support local businesses to meet acceptable customer service standards.</li> </ul>

**Governance** - Ensure effective, efficient use of Shire resources and provide leadership for the community.

OBJECTIVES	PRIORITIES
Provide leadership on behalf of the Community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby and advocate for improved services, infrastructure and access.</li> <li>• Advocate for the regional strengthening of health and education services.</li> <li>• Develop partnerships with stakeholders to enhance community services and infrastructure.</li> </ul>
Foster community participation and collaboration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a Community Engagement Policy and Strategy and provide opportunities for community participation.</li> </ul>
Manage resources effectively.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain Long Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Plans to inform decisions.</li> <li>• Ensure governance and legislative requirements are met.</li> </ul>
Develop workforce capability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Workforce Plan to ensure human resources are available and future skill requirements are identified and developed.</li> <li>• Explore potential apprentice/trainee programs for engaging locals and supporting local employment.</li> </ul>
Culture of continual improvement and innovation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure effective systems are in place to monitor and improve performance.</li> <li>• Conduct a minor review of this SCP every two years and a major review every four years.</li> </ul>





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