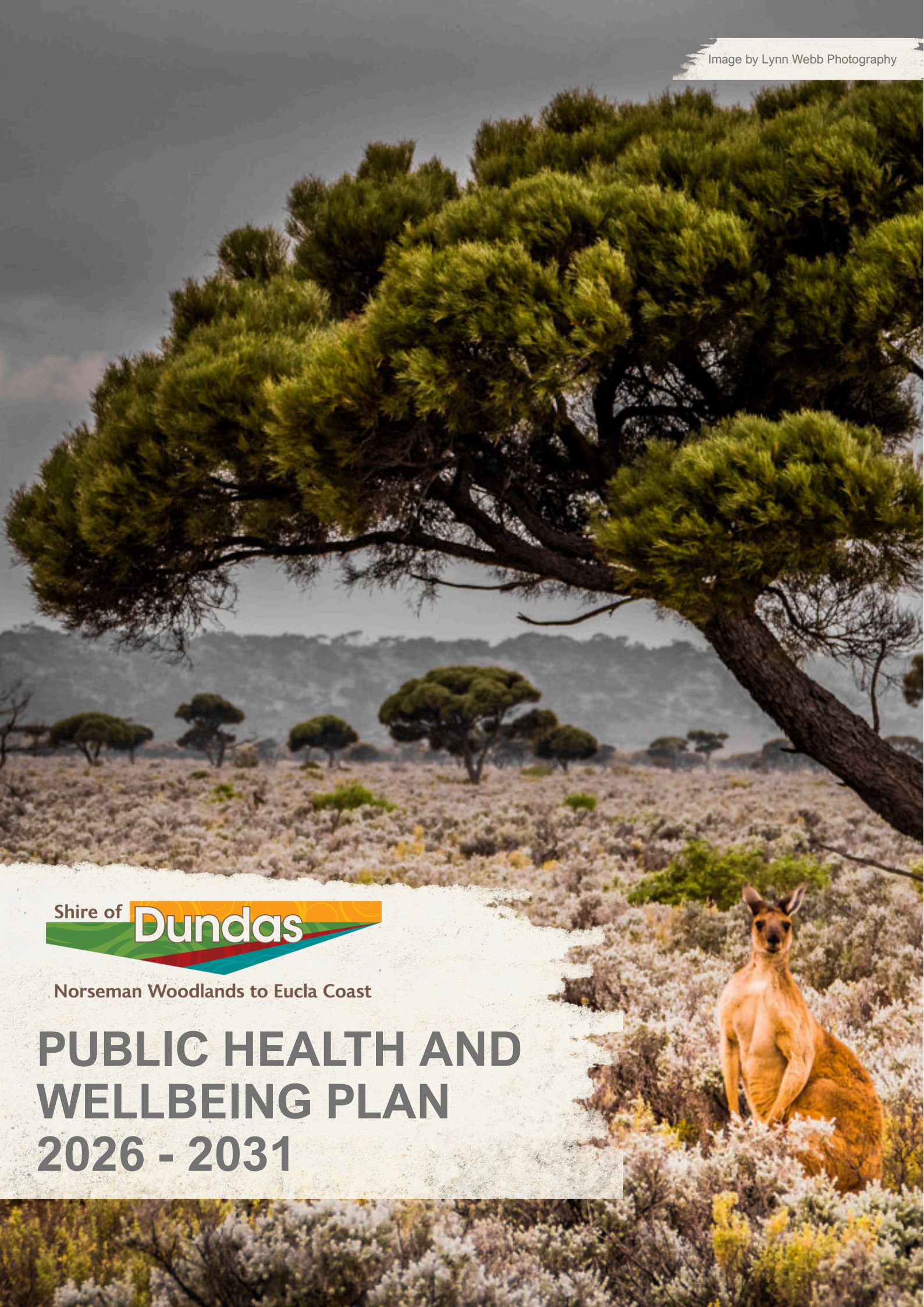


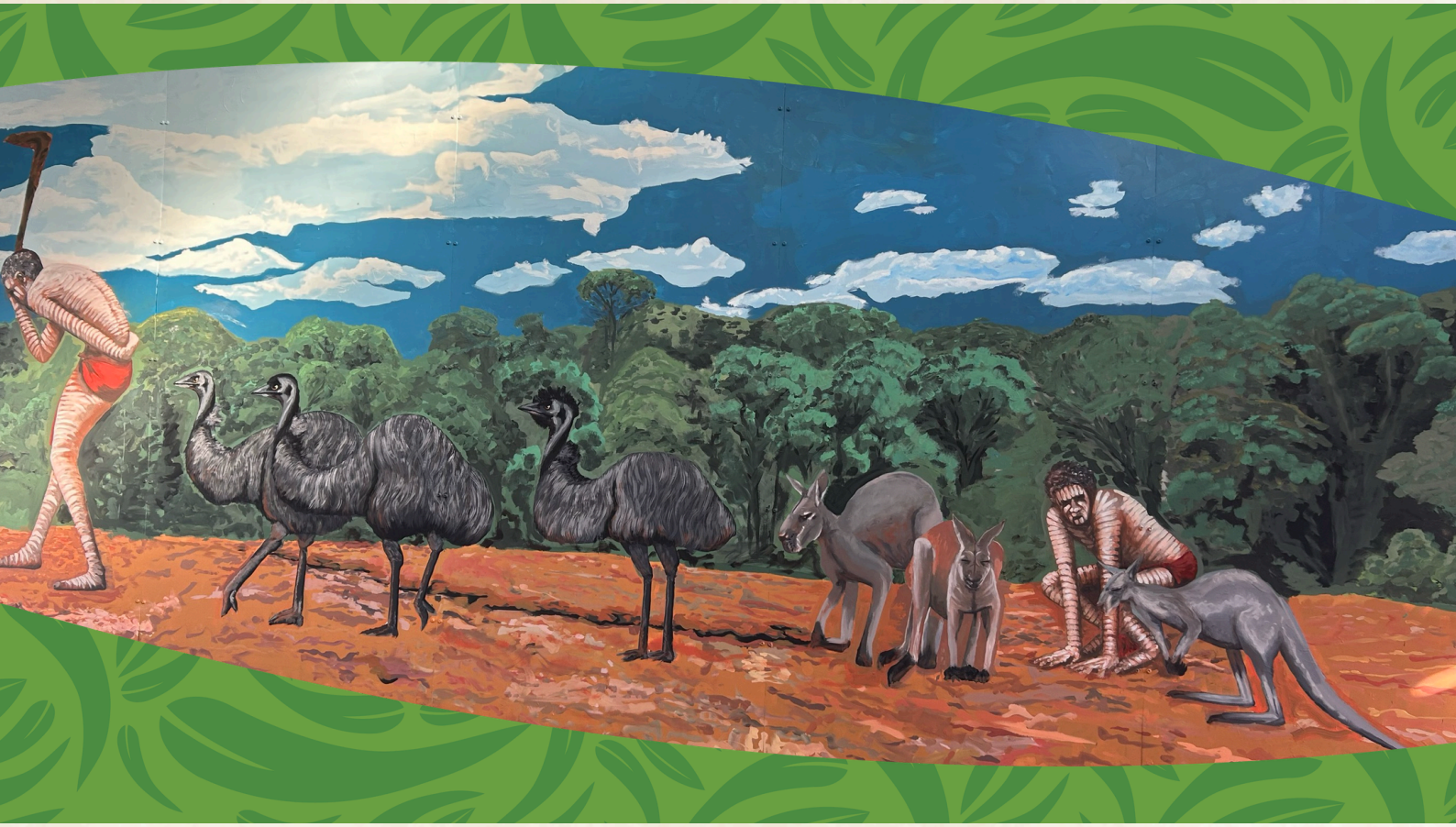
Image by Lynn Webb Photography

Shire of Dundas

Norseman Woodlands to Eucla Coast

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN 2026 - 2031

Acknowledgment of Country



The Shire of Dundas acknowledges Ngadju and Mirning as Traditional Owners, and pay respect to their Elders past, and present.

We recognise the enduring connection to Country, culture and community, and the importance of these connections to health and wellbeing.

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Adopted: October 2026
Review: October 2027



Message from the Shire President

I am pleased to present the Shire of Dundas Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2026-2031 which sets out Council's priorities for supporting healthier, safer, and more connected communities across Norseman, Eucla and along the Eyre Highway.

Local government has an important, but clearly defined, role in public health. The Shire is responsible for environmental health, waste management, local infrastructure, and public amenities. We also invest in community facilities, services and activities that support participation, social connection, and wellbeing.

In Dundas, our role extends beyond traditional local government functions. We operate services such as the Norseman Village Grocer, and the Norseman Post Office because they are important to the ongoing liveability of our community. These are deliberate decisions made by Council in response to local circumstances, not an indication that the Shire has unlimited resources or responsibility for every service residents and visitors may need.

State and federal governments must remain accountable for the services within their responsibilities. Healthcare, including access to general practitioners, hospitals, mental health services, and specialist care requires sustained investment and service delivery models that recognise the realities of regional and remote Western Australia.

Local government advocacy and community goodwill cannot replace poorly funded essential services. This Public Health and Wellbeing Plan is another element in Council's integrated planning and identifies the practical actions the Shire can take within its responsibilities and resources, while recognising the areas where partnerships, investment, and action from stakeholders and other levels of government are required.

Council's focus over the next five years is straightforward: maintain safe, functional, and welcoming community environments, support opportunities for healthy active living, strengthen the sustainability of local services, and continue to advocate for equitable access to essential services. The Shire cannot address every public health challenge facing our communities, nor should it be expected to. Council is committed to making responsible decisions, delivering on strategic goals and objectives, and ensuring that the needs of residents are clearly represented to government.

Laurene Bonza
Shire of Dundas President


Diverse
Inclusive
Sustainable
Accountable

Shire of Dundas Public Health Achievements

The Shire already provides and supports a range of facilities and services that contribute to community health, wellbeing and resilience, including:

- Norseman and Eucla airstrips
- Community Resource Centre
- Visitor Centre
- Gym, swimming pool and other recreational facilities
- Library
- Town and community halls
- Town ovals, parks and campgrounds
- Ranger Services
- Emergency Services Co-Location Building
- Village Grocer Supermarket – supporting food security, local employment and community connection.
- Laundromat
- Cemetery
- Youth Centre - including early childhood groups through Tiny Tots and Kidz Klub.
- Events - supporting seniors, youth, tourism and community.
- Workshops - supporting seniors, local businesses and community.
- Senior excursions - supporting connection
- Direct support of volunteer and social groups
- Community bus

State Health and Volunteer Emergency Services include:

- Norseman District Hospital
- St John Ambulance (volunteer)
- Emergency Services (volunteer)



Introduction

Developed in alignment with the Public Health Act 2016 (WA) and the State Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2030, the Shire of Dundas' Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2026-2031 (the Plan) is a state government legislative requirement and recognises the importance of local health and wellbeing. It prioritises prevention, early intervention and health promotion through integrated planning, health protection services and community partnerships.

The Plan sets out a framework, which together with the Shire's existing strategic plans and processes, delivers outcomes that support the health and wellbeing of our community. It outlines the projects, plans, policies and services that will promote, prevent and protect the health and wellbeing of residents, including people experiencing disadvantage or people with disability in the Shire of Dundas.

The Plan is informed by the Shire of Dundas Health and Wellbeing Profile 2020-2025, Injury Data from Injury Matters, the Department of Health (DoH) Profile data and local engagement. It aims to lay the foundation for a healthier and more sustainable future where the community's wellbeing is a priority.

The Shire's role continues to be strongly focused on advocacy to State and Federal Governments to secure access to services that support the priorities of local needs, such as general practitioner, drug and alcohol support, disability, mental health and other services for disadvantaged and vulnerable sectors of the community.

The role of local government



The Plan will be reviewed annually to monitor progress, and community consultation undertaken to ensure it remains relevant, taking into account resourcing challenges and any emerging health issues.

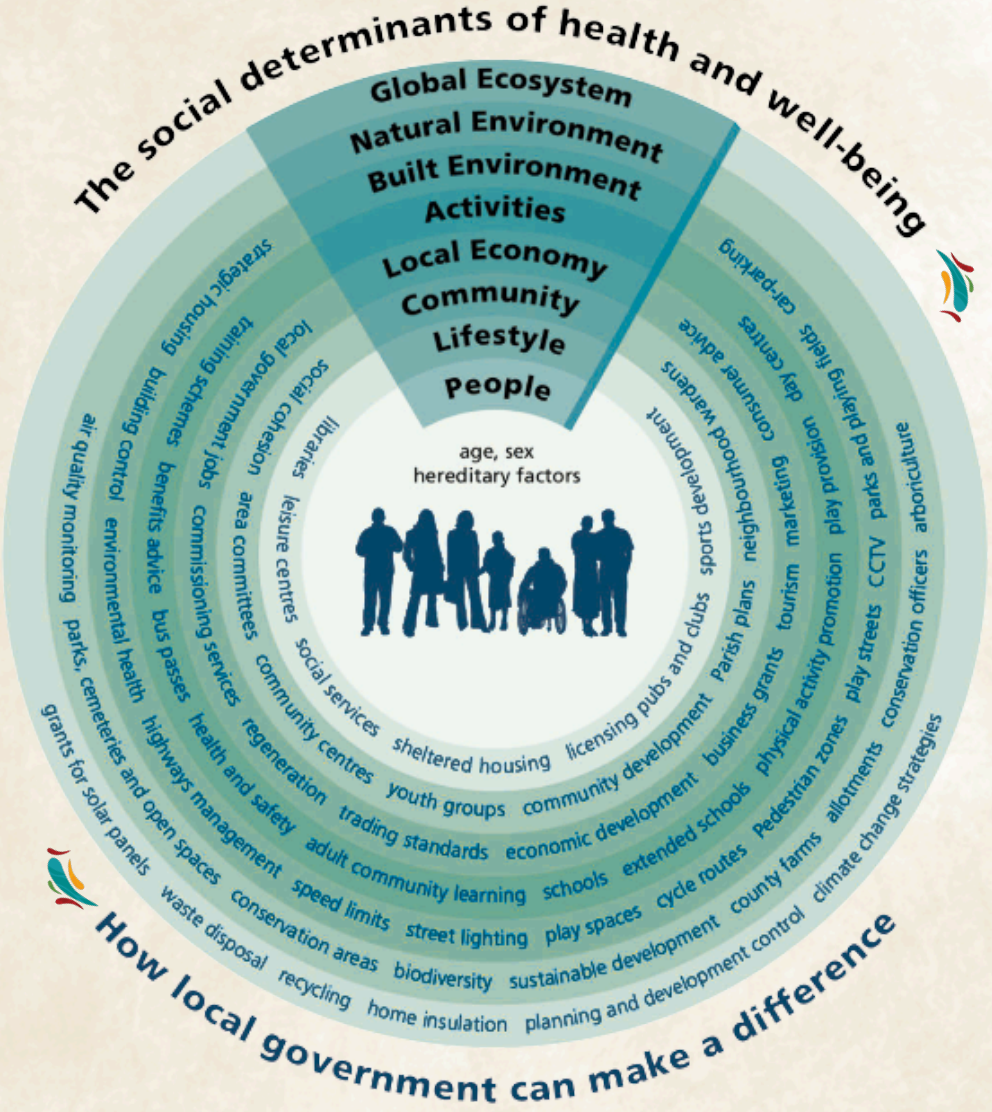
What is Public Health?

Having good health is more than just the absence of illness. It means feeling well physically, mentally, socially and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, it also means cultural wellbeing.

The Public Health Act 2016 defines public health as “the wider health and wellbeing of the community; and the combination of safeguards, policies and programs designed to protect, maintain, promote and improve the health of individuals and their communities, and to prevent and reduce the incidence of illness and disability.”

Social Determinants of Public Health

The social determinants of health are the conditions in which a person is born, grows up, lives works and ages, which in turn influence their opportunity to be healthy, their risk of illness and life expectancy. Commercial determinants such as advertising and product placement can also have an influence on consumer choices.



Public Health Planning

Section 45 of the Public Health Act 2016 requires all local governments to prepare a Plan for their district. The Plan should be consistent with the State Public Health Plan to promote good health, prevent illness, protect people from health risks and enable better health and wellbeing.

This Plan has been developed with reference to the following key strategies:

- Health and Wellbeing Profile Shire of Dundas 2015-2024
- Community and Stakeholder Feedback September 2026
- State Public Health Plan 2025-2030
- Shire of Dundas Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032

The Plan aims to:

- Support the overall health and wellbeing of residents
- Prevent illness, injury and disability
- Promote healthier environments and community
- Encourage collaboration across all levels of government, community groups and service providers
- Foster partnerships to improve health outcomes by early intervention
- Promote inclusiveness and resilience in the community



Image by Renee Hewson

Informing Strategies

The Shire of Dundas' Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2026-2031 has been developed in connection with the Shire's broader planning environment, aligned with existing community aspirations, strategic priorities, operational delivery mechanisms and community identified priorities.

Strategic alignment

The Strategic Community Plan provides the strongest strategic alignment anchor for the Public Health Plan.

This plan identifies the organisational values: Diverse, Inclusive, Sustainable and Accountable.

Strategic framework

The strategic framework includes:

- Community
- Natural Environment
- Built Environment
- Economic Development and Financial Sustainability
- Governance and Leadership.

Existing delivery mechanisms

The Corporate Business Plan confirms that the Shire already has practical delivery mechanisms relevant to health and wellbeing, therefore the Public Health Plan can build from existing implementation models.

Local wellbeing issues

Existing strategic and wellbeing evidence already points to a number of recurring issues relevant to public health planning.

These working themes will likely require validation through later technical evidence review and stakeholder engagement. Emerging health issues may be incorporated into existing mechanisms or identified for inclusion following annual and 5 year review of the Public Health Plan.

Reporting and review

Annual reporting is undertaken for inclusion into the Shire's Annual Report.

A 5 year review of the Public Health Plan is required by the Public Health Act 2016.



Priority Population Groups

Public health actions are designed to benefit the whole community, while recognising that some people experience greater health challenges and may need additional support.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing is a key focus of the State Public Health Plan. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make up 13.74% of the Shire of Dundas population, as recorded in the 2021 Census, and their health needs can be further affected by social and economic disadvantage. Culturally appropriate approaches will therefore be considered across public health priorities, alongside the needs of other priority groups.

Public health priorities will be reflected in the Shire's planning to help improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequities across the community. Priority populations include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Asexual, Sistergirl and Brotherboy (LGBTIQA+SB) communities; people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage; people with disability or mental health conditions; people experiencing homelessness; seniors; and people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

Community, Lifestyles and Activities

Goals of the Shire's current corporate and other strategic documents include:

Community

A healthy, safe, resilient and engaged community.

A place where people thrive, and diversity is celebrated.

A place of belonging.

Natural Environment

Our natural environment is viewed as a precious asset that is protected and enjoyed.

A place where sustainable opportunities and collaboration is nurtured.

Built Environment

Planning and development of infrastructure supports livable, sustainable and connected communities.

Economic Development and Financial Sustainability

A thriving local economy and economic base supports economic growth and business opportunity.

Governance and Leadership

We are a trusted local government who are a strong advocate for our community; we lead with respect and accountability.

Community Profile

A SNAPSHOT OF OUR POPULATION

The available demographic indicators reveal a small, remote and ageing community.

Total Population:
677
people

Gender Breakdown:
54.9% male
45.1% female

Median Age:
50
years

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Population:
93
people or **13.74%**

Very remote geographic classification
Dundas has been identified as one of the more disadvantaged local government areas in WA, with implications relating to affordability, access, resilience, service dependency and broader wellbeing pressures.

Reference:
ABS 2021 Census data.



Developing our Public Health and Wellbeing Plan



Health and Wellbeing Profile

A SNAPSHOT OF OUR HEALTH AND WELLBEING PROFILE

Nutrition

66.4%

of residents ate the recommended serves of fruit daily

WA average **73.2%**

Physical activity and sedentary

67.1%

of residents did not complete the recommended physical activity

WA average **62.3%**

Overweight and obese

36.4%

of adults were overweight

WA average **37.4%**

Smoking related harm

20.1%

of adults currently smoke

WA average **13.5%**

Alcohol related harm

14.7%

of residents drank alcohol at high risk for short term harm

WA average **11.9%**

Illicit drug related harm

1%

of residents had drug-attributable hospitalisations in 2024

(Whilst a small percentage, this is 5 times the state average and significant in a small population)

WA average **0.2%**

Mental Health

20.1%

of residents over 16 were told they had a mental health condition

WA average **25%**

Injury related harm

29.8%

of adults reported they had been injured in the last 12 months

WA average **26%**

Local Government Injury Report

A SNAPSHOT OF INJURIES REPORTED IN THE SHIRE OF DUNDAS

FAST FACTS 2019–2023

There were over **123** hospitalisations due to injury in the Shire of Dundas.

Injury accounted for **402** bed days.

Injury hospitalisations cost approximately **$1,046,174.**

HOSPITALISATIONS BY INJURY CATEGORY 2019–2023

Falls	Mechanical Forces	Transport	Assault	Intentional Self Harm
40	21	17	9	7

TOTAL NUMBER OF FATALITIES PER INJURY AREA 2018–2022

Intentional Self Harm, Assault and Transport

less than 6



Image by Lynn Webb Photography

Alignment with the State Public Health Plan

The Public Health Act 2016 provides the legislative basis for local public health planning in Western Australia. Section 45 of the Act sets out the requirements for all local governments to prepare a local Public Health Plan that applies to its local government district.

- Be consistent with the State Public Health Plan 2025-2030
- Identify local publichealth needs
- Examine data on health factors
- Set objectives and policy priorities for public healthimprovements

State Public Health Priority	How the Shire's Public Health and Wellbeing Plan supports the State policies.
Empowering and enabling people to live healthy lives	• Promotion of physical activity, mental wellbeing and healthy eating • Support community campaigns that promote health and wellbeing • Promote alcohol-free and healthy food events
Providing healthy and safe environments	• Provide Environmental Health regulation in relation to food safety, public buildings, asbestos, pests, waste management • Maintain age-appropriate recreational facilities, provide footpaths, walking trails, bike paths, parks and playgrounds • Sustainability targets to facilitate climate adaptation, including shade provision and tree canopy, e-charger facilities • Promote public safety and Ranger Services
Preventing disease and protecting health	• Emergency Management and Preparedness Planning for incidents such as bushfire, pandemics, natural disasters • Promotion of vaccination and early intervention strategies (child health clinics, hearing tests for children) • Partnerships with health providers e.g., Cancer Council, Injury Matters, Community Health and Healthways • Promote screening services such as National Lung Cancer screening, bone density, hearing, sight, skin checks, prostate and breast cancer

The Five Pillars of Health

In the 2025–2030 State Public Health Plan, five public health pillars were developed through consultation, demographic analysis, health data and policy review. The Shire has adopted these pillars as they represent the areas where local action can have the greatest influence on community health and wellbeing.

	Strategies
Pillar 1 Public Health Leadership	• Provide coordinated, evidence-informed leadership to address the community's highest-impact health risks — alcohol and illicit drug harm, mental health. • Advocate for adequate essential health and disability services • Reduce environmental hazards through strong governance, advocacy and cross-agency collaboration.
Pillar 2 Social Environment	• Promote social connection and reduce social harms through inclusive programs, volunteering pathways and targeted support for vulnerable groups. For example: victims of violence, including children and young adults, bullying, loneliness and addiction.
Pillar 3 Built Environment	• Create safe, accessible and age-friendly environments that support physical activity, reduce injury risk and respond directly to community concerns. For example: footpaths, shade, and recreational facilities.
Pillar 4 Natural Environment	• Protect environmental health by prioritising programs that are essential to the health and wellbeing of the community. For example: clean water, clean air, mosquito control, asbestos risk management and bushfire resilience.
Pillar 5 Health Protection	• Reduce preventable harm by improving access to services for all age groups. For example: dental services, healthy food, falls-prevention programs and substance harm-reduction initiatives.

Community Consultation

The Public Health and Wellbeing Plan was developed through a collaborative process involving community surveys and consultation, health data analysis and internal strategy alignment. The percentage of respondents was small, approximately 10.3% of the population, however the majority of issues identified were consistent with the outcomes of past consultations.



The Shire sought to capture the themes of public health in the 5 Pillars that will ultimately have the greatest influence in improving public health and wellbeing. Each key priority suggests long-term health goals that will determine annual work plans with deliverable actions to be measured and reported on annually, and that form the basis of the annual and long-term budgets.



In summary, the evidence indicates that the Shire's Public Health and Wellbeing Plan should prioritise prevention of alcohol and other drug-related harm, tobacco-related harm, unhealthy weight, inactivity and injury, while strengthening mental wellbeing, social connection, access to preventive health services, safe and inclusive recreation, and environmental health. Accessibility for disabled people, general practitioner services and services for family violence, including for children, were highlighted. Community feedback also identifies practical opportunities around fresh food access, dental and screening services, safe roads and footpaths, facility maintenance and shade.



These priorities sit alongside important local strengths - community connection, volunteering, natural environment and existing recreation and community facilities. The Plan seeks to protect and enhance these assets while focusing on the strongest health evidence needs repeatedly identified by residents.

The Shire of Dundas
Five Public Health Pillars

By aligning the community feedback with the five Pillars and the State Government Public Health Plan a set of clear key priorities has emerged. These priorities will underpin the Strategic Action Plan and Implementation Plan.

	How the Shire's Plan will support the State Government priority	State domain mapping
Public Health Leadership	Coordinated harm-reduction, mental health leadership, cross-agency governance, adequate General Practitioner and disability services	**Enable**
Social Environment	Community connection, family violence, bullying, loneliness, volunteering, food support	**Promote** **Equity & Inclusion**
Built Environment	Safe footpaths, shade, age-friendly exercise infrastructure, pool/oval improvements, affordable housing	**Promote** **Prevent**
Natural Environment	Clean water, clean air, mosquito control, asbestos, vacant housing, bush management	**Protect**
Health Protection	Screening and dental access, substance harm reduction, falls prevention, healthy food access & education	**Prevent** **Protect**

The Five Pillars - Key Elements

	The Key Elements
Pillar 1 Public Health Leadership	• Lead harm-reduction initiatives for alcohol, illicit drugs, smoking and vaping. (100% community support) • Coordinate mental health responses. (89% serious concern) • Promote public health messaging using Shire assets. • Support youth wellbeing programs (bullying, violence, loneliness, substance risks). • Advocate for demolition/remediation of asbestos-containing vacant housing. • Facilitate visiting dental and screening services.
Pillar 2 Social Environment	• Address violence, bullying, loneliness and addiction. • Build on strong community connection (38% identified as Dundas' greatest strength). • Support volunteering. • Expand food security initiatives. • Deliver inclusive community events. • Implement Healthy Food & Drink Policy. • Support priority groups (Aboriginal community, youth, older adults). • Maintain Woodlands Community Resource Centre as a wellbeing hub.
Pillar 3 Built Environment	• Upgrade footpaths. • Improve pool shade and access; maintain oval surfaces. • Install public exercise equipment and age-friendly play spaces. • Support Stay on Your Feet, yoga/pilates, walking groups. • Enhance walking trails and safe routes to school. • Maintain parks and green spaces. Implement wayfinding signage including Aboriginal dual naming. • Ensure accessibility across Shire facilities and events.
Pillar 4 Natural Environment	• Monitor and report on water and air quality. • Implement mosquito monitoring and treatment. • Advocate for remediation of asbestos-containing vacant housing. • Manage bushland to reduce fire risk, dust and erosion. Increase tree canopy and shaded areas. • Implement sustainability and climate resilience actions. • Protect biodiversity through habitat conservation.
Pillar 5 Health Protection	• Facilitate visiting dental clinics and mobile screening services. • Advocate for and support substance harm-reduction programs. • Advocate for support programs and facilities for victims of violence. • Improve healthy food access (supermarket, farmers markets, cooking demos). • Promote falls prevention programs (Stay on Your Feet). • Promote healthy lifestyle campaigns (Live Lighter, Alcohol Think Again). • Restrict unhealthy advertising (fast food, alcohol, gambling). • Ensure healthy food options at Shire events. • Maintain compliance with public health legislation. • Apply CPTED* principles to enhance community safety.

*Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) CPTED is an evidence-based approach to reducing crime and improving community safety by designing and managing the built environment in ways that influence behaviour.

Strategic Action Plan

Delivery of the Strategic Action Plan will occur through a range of mechanisms, primarily advocacy where service delivery falls outside the Shire's direct responsibility, Shire officers, contractors and partner organisations. Limited Shire resources suggest that targeted advocacy is essential, particularly where state and federal government agencies are responsible for service delivery. External stakeholders and Shire employees will be regularly engaged, recognising that public health and wellbeing are shared responsibilities. The Shire will continue to foster strong partnerships and collaborations with key stakeholders, including the broader community, to successfully implement this Plan across 2026–2031.

As several components of this Plan are delivered through existing strategies and programs, the Strategic Action Plan will focus on key opportunities, potential partnerships and identified gaps. Established partnerships will continue to be strengthened and expanded where possible and appropriate.

The Action Plan will be updated each year, or as needed, to reflect available resources while continuing to meet community and stakeholder expectations. Tasks may be added, removed or refined to account for completed actions, budget changes, resourcing challenges, and new priorities.

The Shire has established an internal procedure which will monitor progress and report quarterly where appropriate or annually as required by legislation. The Shire will review emerging issues and advocate or oversee delivery of actions associated with the Plan.



Strategic Action Plan

Pillar	Priority	Objective	Alignment
 Pillar 1 - Public Health Leadership	PHL 1 - Public Health Governance	Establish a coordinated, culturally safe public health leadership through a multi-agency collaboration and advocacy.	Enable
	PHL 2 - Evidence Informed Planning	Use annual data and consultation reviews to guide public health decisions and adjust priorities.	Enable
	PHL 3 - Accessible Medical Services	Advocate for state and federal support for priority General Practitioner and allied health services.	Enable
 Pillar 2 - Social Environment	SE 1 - Community Connection	Support social cohesion through inclusive events, volunteering, and Aboriginal-led cultural programs.	Promote Equity & Inclusion
	SE 2 - Reduce Social Harms	Reduce family violence, bullying, loneliness, and addiction through outreach and safe referral pathways.	Promote
	SE 3 - Food Security & Support	Improve access to nutritious food and support vulnerable residents through partnerships and community programs.	Promote
	SE 4 - Social Support Hub	Support the use of the Woodlands Community Resource Centre (CRC) as a safe and welcoming meeting hub.	Promote
 Pillar 3 - Built Environment	BE 1 - Safe Footpaths & Accessibility	Reduce injury risk and improve accessibility through targeted upgrades to footpaths, lighting, and public spaces.	Promote Prevent
	BE 2 - Age-Friendly Recreation	Improve recreational facilities to support physical activity and wellbeing for all ages.	Promote
	BE 3 - Active Transport & Trails	Support active living through safe, accessible walking and cycling infrastructure.	Promote

Strategic Action Plan

Pillar	Priority	Objective	Alignment
Pillar 4 - Natural Environment	**NE 1 - Water & Air Quality**	Protect community health through transparent monitoring and communication of environmental risks.	Protect
	NE 2 - Mosquito Management	Reduce vector-borne disease risk through integrated mosquito control.	Protect
	NE 3 - Asbestos Structures & Contaminated Sites	Reduce environmental hazards through targeted assessment and remediation.	Protect
		Reduce public health risks associated with dilapidated asbestos-containing state and privately owned housing through monitoring, advocacy, and interagency escalation.	Protect
	NE 4 - Bush Management & Climate Resilience	Strengthen resilience to climate and environmental risks.	Protect
Pillar 5 - Health Protection	**HP 1 - Substance Harm Reduction**	Reduce harm from alcohol, illicit drugs, smoking, and vaping through advocacy and support of coordinated prevention.	Prevent Protect
	HP 2 - Mental Health & Suicide Prevention	Improve mental wellbeing through early intervention, support programs, and accessible referral pathways.	Prevent
	HP 3 - Screening & Clinical Access	Improve access to essential screening, dental, and chronic disease services.	Prevent
	HP 4 - Falls-Prevention & Health Ageing	Reduce falls risk and support healthy ageing through programs and environmental improvements.	Prevent
	HP 5 - Healthy Food Access	Improve access to fresh food and support healthy eating behaviours.	Prevent
	HP 6 - Domestic Violence	Protect and support victims of violence, including children to reduce further risk.	Protect

Implementation Plan

The Shire currently supports and delivers a diverse range of health and wellbeing services and programs. It promotes many activities and is a strong advocate for improved and specifically targeted services for all sectors of the local community.

The provision of many services is the responsibility of other levels of government. It is acknowledged that some critical services are often not provided or are unable to service local needs due to distance and limited availability. The Shire is advocating to close these gaps to ensure the best local outcomes are achieved for the community.

Pillar	Priority	Key Action (Implementation)	Lead / Partners	Timeframe	Annual Measures
Pillar 1 - Public Health Leadership	**PHL 1 - Public Health Governance**	Support and participate in a multi-agency public health approach; strengthen existing Goldfields District Leadership Group (GDLG) multi-agency leadership group; SCP goals; embed Aboriginal representation.	Shire; Community Health; Aboriginal Health Services; Police; Schools; GDLG	2026-2031	Dashboard updates; Aboriginal-led recommendations implemented
	PHL 2 - Evidence Informed Planning	Conduct annual review of data (surveys, hospitalisations, police, environmental); adjust priorities.	Shire; WA Dept of Health	2026-2031	Annual review completed; actions adjusted; stakeholder feedback
	PHL 3 - Accessible Medical Services	Advocate for government and all relevant stakeholders to provide essential and critical General Practitioner and allied health services as per the responsibility of state and federal governments.	Shire; WALGA; Goldfields District Leadership Group	2026-2031	Monitor improvements in community health; satisfaction perception of safety; improved services
Pillar 2 - Social Environment	**SE 1 - Community Connection**	Deliver inclusive events; support Aboriginal cultural programs; seniors' engagement; Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) goals; expand volunteering pathways.	Shire; Aboriginal organisations; Community groups	2026-2031	Event numbers; attendance; volunteer participation; satisfaction
	SE 2 - Reduce Social Harms	Advocate for support for outreach on violence, bullying, addiction; establish referral pathways; mental wellbeing campaigns; advocate for locally based Community Health Nurse.	Shire; Specialist state and federal services; Schools	2026-2031	Outreach sessions; referral utilisation; perception of safety; locally based Community Health Nurse
	SE 3 - Food Security & Support	Initiate food redistribution partnerships; supermarket; Meals on Wheels return; School Breakfast Club; community kitchens; food literacy programs.	Shire; Mine operators; Supermarket/cafes; Community groups	2026-2031	Food redistributed; program participation; food insecurity trends
	SE 4 - Social Support Hub	Advertise and actively support the use of Woodlands Community Resource Centre (CRC) as a safe and welcoming meeting hub.	Shire; Community groups	2026-2031	Participation; satisfaction; improved wellbeing
Pillar 3 - Built Environment	**BE 1 - Safe Footpaths & Accessibility**	Continue to upgrade footpaths, lighting, crossings; improve disability access; DAIP goals.	Shire Infrastructure planning; state and federal grants	2026-2031	Priority areas upgraded; accessibility improvements; falls incidents
	BE 2 - Age-Friendly Recreation	Improve pool shade/hours and accessibility; maintain oval; install exercise/play equipment; link to programs; DAIP goals.	Shire; Recreation providers; state grants	2026-2031	Facility upgrades; review hours; program participation; user satisfaction
	BE 3 - Active Transport & Trails	Enhance bike trails, bike paths, safe routes to school; add signage and rest points.	Shire; Schools; state grants	2026-2031	Trail improvements; usage counts; safety feedback

Implementation Plan

Pillar	Priority	Key Actions (Implementation)	Lead / Partners	Timeframe	Annual Measures
Pillar 4 - Natural Environment	**NE 1 - Water & Air Quality**	Monitor water, dust, air; publish results; culturally safe communication.	Shire; Environmental Health; Mines	2026-2031	Monitoring results; public updates; community confidence
	NE 2 - Mosquito Management	Facilitate larval monitoring; treatment; pond maintenance; public education.	Shire; social media; Environmental health	2026-2031	Program; Treatment cycles; awareness levels; complaint reduction
	NE 3 - Asbestos Structures & Contaminated Sites	Advocate for plans to reduce public and environmental harm; remediation plans.	Shire; Dept of Health; DWER; property owners; Environmental health; contractors	2026-2031	Sites assessed; remediation actions; hazard reports
		Address vacant/dilapidated housing and other structures.			Develop five (5) year plan of staged reduction
	NE 4 - Bush Management & Climate Resilience	Support fire risk reduction; dust/erosion control; support cultural land use; climate resilience actions; DFES partnerships; advocacy to state and federal governments for Crown Land management.	Shire; DFES; Aboriginal gropus	2026-2031	Bush management activites; fire risk indicators; resilience actions; actions Crown Land management.
Pillar 5 - Health Protection	**HP 1 - Substance Harm Reduction**	Liaise with external providers on Harm-Reduction Strategy; advocate for youth harm prevention; family support; treatment linkages; state and federal government advocacy for regional remote community services.	Shire; state and federal health support facilities and services; Police	2026-2031	Programs delivered; participation; remote communities; substance-related trends; indicators
	HP 2 - Mental Health & Suicide Prevention	Support groups; early intervention; referral pathways; promotion in schools/workplaces; state and federal government advocacy for regional remote community services.	Shire; Education Dept; Mental health services	2026-2031	Programs delivered; remote communities; referral utilisation; wellbeing indicators
	HP 3 - Screening & Clinical Access	Support for visiting dental clinics; mobile screening; telehealth; appropriate transport support; state and federal government advocacy for regional remote community services and locally based Community Health Nurse.	Shire; Community Health; NGOs	2026-2031	Visiting services; screening rates; preventable disease trends; remote communities; Community Health Nurse
	HP 4 - Falls-Prevention & Health Ageing	Advocate for Stay on Your Feet groups; home safety checks; environmental improvements.	Shire; Aged care providers	2026-2031	Program participation; falls hospitalisations; safety assessments
	HP 5 - Healthy Food Access	Support community markets; fresh food supply chains; supermarket; mines; healthy event catering; education and cooking demonstrations; links to exercise programs.	Shire; Local businesses; Health NGOs	2026-2031	Food initiatives; program participation; food insecurity reduction
	HP 6 - Domestic Violence	Advocate for protection of children; support victims of violence; specialist support facility; recognise ‘at risk’ individuals.	Shire; schools; Police; government agencies	2026-2031	Reduced incidence of harm; personal security

Risk Assessment Matrix

Improved public health and community wellbeing requires partnership and active collaboration of all stakeholders. This risk assessment acknowledges the respective roles and responsibilities of local, state and federal governments, alongside health service providers, community organisations, businesses and residents. The risk matrix provides a framework to identify where the Council can take direct action within its statutory functions and available resources, where partnerships can improve outcomes, and where advocacy or action by other levels of government is required.

Risk Area (Pillar)	Description of Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Level	Key Controls / Mitigation
Pillar 1 - Public Health Leadership	Lack of coordinated public health governance leading to fragmented responses to alcohol, drugs, mental health and environmental issues.	Possible (3)	Major (3)	High	Strategic Community Plan Goals; annual data reviews; cross-agency partnerships; Aboriginal representation; advocacy to state and federal governments.
	Insufficient data collection/reporting reducing ability to respond to emerging health risks.	Possible (3)	Moderate (2)	Medium	Public Health Dashboard; annual reporting; improved data sharing.
Pillar 2 - Social Environment	Family violence, bullying, loneliness, and addiction impacting community wellbeing.	Likely (4)	Severe (4)	Extreme	Outreach programs; referral pathways; mental wellbeing campaigns; culturally safe supports; advocacy to state and federal governments.
	Declining community connection reducing protective factors for mental health and resilience; lack of Community Health support.	Possible (3)	Major (3)	High	Inclusive events; volunteering; Aboriginal culture programs; youth engagement; seniors' engagement; Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) goals; locally based Community Health Nurse.
	Food insecurity affecting vulnerable residents.	Possible (3)	Moderate (2)	Medium	Food redistribution partnerships; access to local supermarket; advocate for Meals on Wheels to return; nutrition education programs; School Breakfast Club Program.
Pillar 3 - Built Environment	Unsafe footpaths, poor lighting, and accessibility barriers leading to falls and injuries.	Likely (4)	Major (4)	High	Footpath upgrades; lighting improvements; Stay on Your Feet programs; disability access.
	Poor recreational facilities reducing physical activity and increasing chronic disease risk.	Possible (3)	Major (4)	High	Recreation facilities upgrades; exercise equipment; active transport infrastructure; DAIP.
Pillar 4 - Natural Environment	Poor water or air quality affective community health (dust, mining impacts, drinking water).	Possible (3)	Severe (4)	High	Monitoring programs; public reporting; environmental health partnerships.
	Mosquito-borne disease risk due to inadequate monitoring/treatment.	Likely (4)	Major (3)	High	Integrated mosquito management; public education; regional coordination.
	Asbestos, contaminated sites, and vacant housing posing environmental and safety hazards.	Possible (3)	Severe (4)	High	Site audits; remediation plans; vacant housing mangement.
	Bushfire, heat and climate impacts affecting health and safety.	Possible (3)	Severe (4)	High	Bush management; climate resilience planning; DFES partnerships; advocacy to State and Federal Governments regarding appropriate management of Crown Land.
Pillar 5 - Health Protection	Alcohol and illicit drug harm causing injury, violence, chronic disease, and social disruption.	Almost Certain (5)	Severe (4)	Extreme	Harm-reduction strategy; youth prevention; family support; treatment pathways; advocacy to state and federal governments for improved services in regional and remote communities.
	Mental health issues (depression, anxiety, suicide risk) impacting wellbeing and safety.	Likely (4)	Severe (4)	Extreme	Early intervention; support groups; referral pathways; mental health promotion; advocacy to state and federal governments for improved services in regional and remote communities.
	Limited access to screening, dental, and chronic disease services increasing preventable illness.	Likely (4)	Major (3)	High	Visiting services; mobile screening; telehealth; transport support; advocacy to state and federal governments for improved services in regional and remote communities.
	Falls among older adults due to environmental hazards and limited prevention programs.	Likely (4)	Major (3)	High	Falls-prevention programs; home safety checks; built environment improvements.
	Poor access to fresh food increasing chronic disease/	Possible (3)	Moderate (2)	Medium	Community markets; healthy food options at events; local supermarket; nutrition education programs; advocate.

Likelihood: Rare (1) · Unlikely (2) · Possible (3) · Likely (4) · Almost Certain (5)

Consequence: Minor (1) · Moderate (2) · Major (3) · Severe (4) · Extreme (5)

Risk rating (overall risk level)

- **Extreme** — Very high risk – immediate and coordinated action.
- **High** — Significant risk – prioritised action required.
- **Medium** — Moderate risk – planned and monitored action.
- **Low** — Low risk – monitor and maintain.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This Public Health and Wellbeing Plan is a living document. Progress on actions and implementation will be monitored regularly and reported annually to the Department of Health and through the Shire's Annual Report. In accordance with the Public Health Act 2016, the Plan will be reviewed annually, made publicly available, and replaced at least every five years.



Measuring progress in public health outcomes, particularly in the prevention of chronic disease, which includes addiction, is inherently complex and takes time to demonstrate measurable change. However, the Shire, in conjunction with external providers, will monitor implementation tasks and track progress across the life of the Plan, with formal reporting to Council at the conclusion of each financial year. Progress updates will also be communicated to the community through the Shire's Annual Report, social media, website and other community engagement activities. This process will inform the ongoing development of the next Public Health Plan, ensuring a continuous cycle of improvement and a strong foundation for supporting the health and wellbeing of the local community into the future.





Review / Budget

The Plan will undergo a minor review every year and a major review every five years, in line with statutory obligations and community needs. Community and stakeholder surveys will also be used along with health profile data to assess progress and refine priorities.

In the final year of the Plan, the Shire will undertake a comprehensive evaluation to assess outcomes, identify successes and areas for improvement and review community health priorities using the most current data available.

This Public Health Plan will inform the Shire's Long-Term Financial Plan and annual budget process. Supported by an annual action plan, the document is intended to remain flexible and responsive, enabling the Shire to incorporate emerging priorities and opportunities over time.

In summary, this Plan has been developed through community consultation, health data analysis, and alignment with our broader strategic direction. It reflects both our legislative responsibilities and our community's aspirations. It is a document that will evolve as the Shire evolves. We will track our progress by conducting an annual review and major replacement of the Plan every five years to ensure our priorities remain relevant and effective.



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