



# Annual Report 2018-2019





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Shire of West Arthur respectfully acknowledges that the land upon which we work and live, is the traditional land of the Noongar people. We recognise their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationship with the land. We honour Elders past, present and emerging and we support the principles of a reconciled Australia for all its people.





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## 2. ABOUT OUR ANNUAL REPORT

The Shire of West Arthur presents this document, our Annual Report, which showcases our activities and achievements throughout the 2018/19 financial year.

It is organised to align with our Strategic Community Plan 2017–2027 based on the themes of

**Community Well Being** – A safe and enabling place to live with a strong sense of identity and thriving, active culture.

**Local Economy** – A vibrant sustainable and growing community with active business and agriculture sectors.

**Built Environment** – Well maintained infrastructure that supports the community and the economy.

**Natural Environment** – Natural biodiversity maintained and responsible land and water use to preserve the environment for future generations.

**Governance and Organisation** – Strong local leadership; responsible, ethical management; and efficient service delivery.

Copies of the Strategic Community Plan and Corporate Business Plan are available from our web site [www.westarthur.wa.gov.au](http://www.westarthur.wa.gov.au) and the Shire Office.

Our Annual Financial Statements are included at the rear of the Annual Report and are shown separately on the web site.

They have been independently audited and certified by the Auditor General for Western Australia.





### 3. SHIRE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is my first report as Shire President of the Shire of West Arthur having been elected to the role in October 2019. I am honoured to introduce the Shire of West Arthur's Annual Report for the 2018/19 financial year.

I would like to acknowledge my predecessor, Ray Harrington, for his contributions to the Shire during eleven years on Council, including eight as Shire President. Ray has been a strong advocate for the Shire and region and will be missed. During the year under review, I held the position of Deputy Shire President

Maintaining and improving our road network to ensure the safety of all road users continues to be a priority for Council. This year the Shire expended \$1.17m on capital road works and close to \$800,000 on road maintenance, excluding major bridge works externally funded. It was pleasing to see that the Federal Government extended the Roads to Recovery Program to support ongoing improvements. We also look forward to Main Roads completion of the Coalfields Road realignment at Bowelling.

We were disappointed to see the closure of our local NAB agency in August. Council met with the Collie Community Bendigo Bank to strongly support the retention of their local full time agency in our Community Resource Centre. The Shire has moved its banking to the Collie Community Bendigo Bank in support of the service that they provide to our community.

#### Awards and Achievements

The West Arthur Cultural Day included a photography project, Faces of West Arthur, which was proudly showcased on the large screen in Yagan Square in Perth. West Arthur was a finalist in two categories and the overall state award in the 2018 Tidy Towns Awards.

The second Darkan Sheepfest was held in February 2019 and was once again a credit to all involved and the Darkan Sheepfest Committee were very worthy winners of the Australia Day Community Group of the Year award. Heather Cook was recognised for her many years of selfless contribution to the West Arthur community, winning the Citizen of the Year award, and Amy Lubcke was honoured as our Young Citizen of the Year, recognising her fundraising and volunteer work assisting the children in the Maasai area of Kenya, Africa.

In September 2018, the West Arthur Health and Resource Centre extension was officially opened. The expanded Centre has become a vibrant community hub, providing additional meeting space, larger library and more offices. We acknowledge the funding provided by the Walter Hawthorn estate, Lotterywest and Royalties for Regions (Country Local Government Fund WA CRC Network

Building and Infrastructure Fund and Regional Collocation Scheme).

#### Looking Forward

The Shire finished the year in a strong financial position with \$1,789,165 in reserve funds. These funds will assist with a number of planned projects including the Betty Brown Historical Centre, a new chalet at the caravan park, Darkan Railway Reserve redevelopment, plant replacement, and housing upgrades in the 2019/20 financial year and construction of a new house, refurbishment of a jetty at the Lake, ongoing plant replacement, sporting upgrades, and economic development opportunities in the future to assist us to meet the objectives of our Community Strategic Plan.

In early 2020, the Shire will be undertaking a complete review of our Community Strategic Plan and I urge all residents and ratepayers to contribute to the community consultation. This Plan will guide Council's decision making for the next four years and will have an impact on the future of the Shire.

The Betty Brown Historical Centre will be a special place acknowledging the history of our community and we look forward to the opening in 2020. We are excited about the opportunities that our involvement in the Astrotowns project will bring and look forward to raising awareness of night skies to our own community and welcoming visitors.

On behalf of Council, I thank our Shire staff for the work they have undertaken throughout the year.

Cr Kevin King  
Shire President



## 4. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The 2018/19 financial year has been another positive year for the Shire of West Arthur with the highlights being the completion of the Health and Resource Centre, community events and activities, and ongoing improvements to the overall standard of Shire roads.

### Financial

In July 2018, the budget was adopted with an increase in rates of 4%. The Shire finished the 2018/19 financial year with a surplus of \$1,162,096 which included financial assistance grants paid in advance of \$527,110.

### Community and Capital Projects

There were a number of successful capital projects during the 2018/19 financial year, the largest being the completion of the Health and Resource Centre expansion. Other projects included solar power to the Health and Resource Centre and Darkan Sport and Community Centre and improvements to the Darkan oval changerooms, which were both Federally funded. New gates to control the release of water for flushing Lake Towerrinning were installed with the support of funding from the State NRM program.

The strong community spirit of the Shire was once again evident with support for many community events and projects including the Armistice silhouettes and Remembrance Day Ceremony, the biennial Cultural Day, the Faces of West Arthur project, Sheepfest, A Boy Named Cash, and The Purple People Show.

The senior's meals project is assisting older people to stay in our community with the supply of hot home cooked meals on a weekly basis. The volunteers involved with the project are part of its success.

Congratulations to the members of the Arthur River community, who donated cash and volunteered many hours to renovate the 1950s section of the Arthur River Hall.

Further information about the achievements of 2018/19 are included in this Annual Report.

In 2019/20 our childcare service, Kids Central, will transfer to a regionally managed model. This will assist to ensure the sustainability of the centre into the future.

Thank you to the Shire's staff who all go above and beyond what is expected of them, to meet the challenges in their roles and to deliver services to our community. I would also like to acknowledge our elected members and community, with whom work alongside with the common goal of ensuring that West Arthur remains a wonderful place to live.

Nicole Wasmann

**Chief Executive Officer**





## 5. ELECTED MEMBERS

### Portfolios and Roles

As at 30 June, our elected members represented Council as per the following:

Councillors	Roles
<b>Cr Raymond Harrington OAM (President)</b> Elected to Office in 2007 Retiring 2019	Audit Committee, Executive Appraisal Committee, Local Emergency Management, Development Assessment Panel, chair meetings of the Lake Towerrinning Strategic Plan Reference meetings, Central Country Zone of WALGA and 4WDL VROC. Plant and equipment portfolio.
<b>Cr Kevin King (Deputy President)</b> Elected to Office in 2005 Retiring 2021	Audit Committee, Executive Appraisal Committee, Tidy Towns Committee, Pool Committee, and Regional Road Group and a proxy to the Development Assessment Panel.
<b>Cr Alan Blencowe</b> Elected to Office 2017 Retiring 2019	Museum Reference Group, and Local Emergency Management.
<b>Cr Julie McFall</b> Elected to Office 2017 Retiring 2021	Audit Committee, West Arthur Cottage Homes Committee, and proxy to 4WDL VROC
<b>Cr Marie Lloyd</b> Elected to Office 2017 Retiring 2021	West Arthur Community Resource Centre Committee and a proxy to the Development Assessment Panel.
<b>Cr Michael Meredith</b> Elected to Office in 2003 Retiring 2019	Executive Appraisal Committee, Development Assessment Panel and Shire of West Arthur Bush Fire Advisory Committee. Plant and equipment portfolio.
<b>Cr Neil Manuel</b> Elected to Office in 2009 Retiring 2021	Arthur River Development Group

### Meeting Attendance

COUNCILLOR	ORDINARY MEETING	ANNUAL ELECTORS
Cr Raymond Harrington	11	1
Cr Kevin King	11	1
Cr Neil Manuel	9	0
Cr Michael Meredith	8	0
Cr Julie McFall	10	1
Cr Marie Lloyd	10	0
Cr Alan Blencowe	11	1

## 6. QUICK FACTS

Area: 283,182.7ha

Roads length: 208 km sealed roads and 652 km unsealed roads.

Population: 798 ABS Statistics 2018

Number of electors: 624

When shire established: 1896

Localities – Darkan, Bokal, Arthur River, Duranillin, Trigwell, Bowelling, Mokup and Moodiarrup.

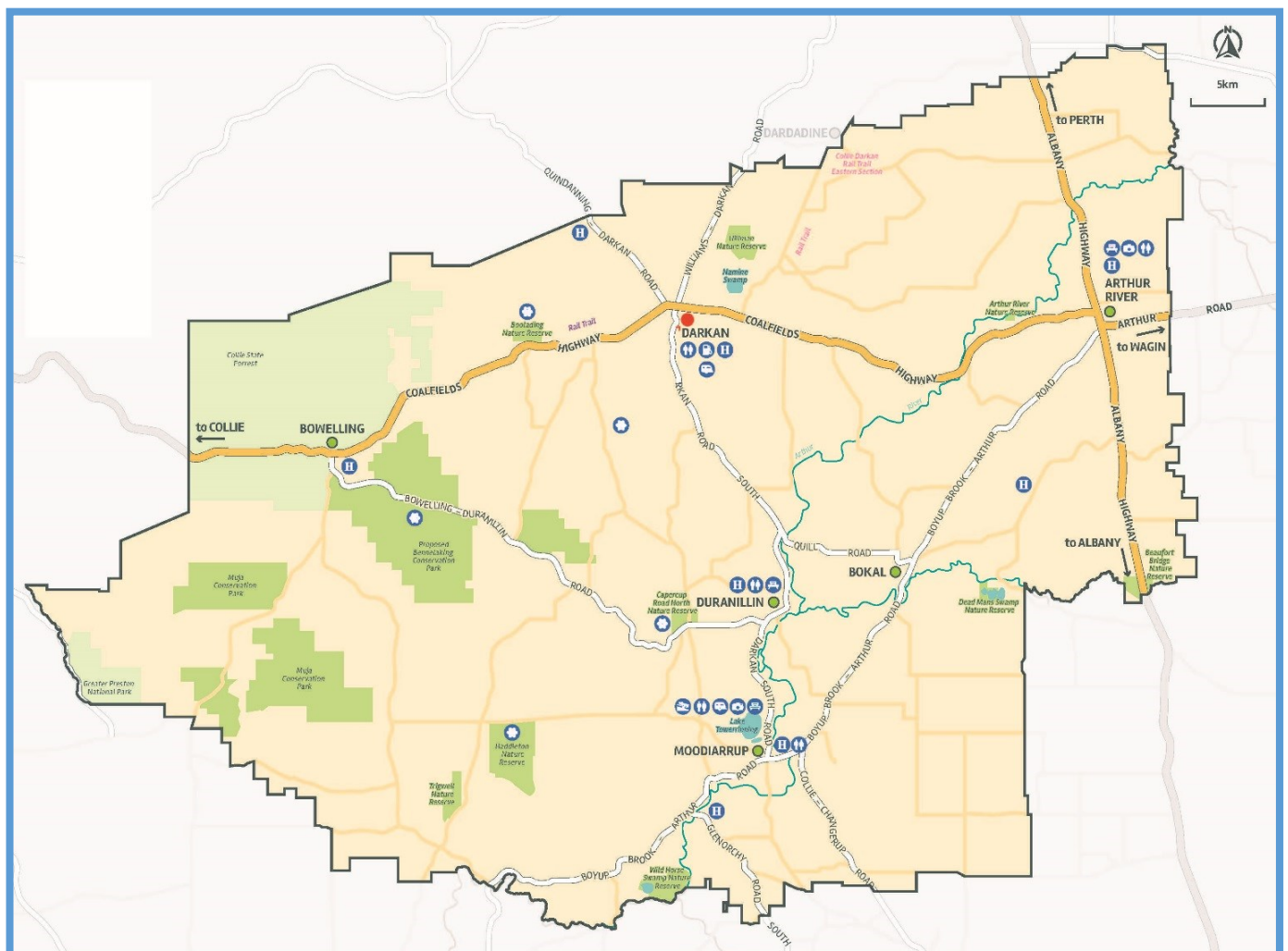
Sporting Facilities – Darkan and Districts Sports & Community Club, Arthur River Country Club, Moodiarrup Sports Club.

Total capital works value for 2018/19\_ \$1,760,398

Total operating revenue in 2018/19 \$3,579,406

Total non-operating revenue in 2018/19 \$834,583

Total income from rates in 2018/19 \$1,674,054





## 7. PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

**Chief Executive Officer**

Nicole Wasmann

**Manager Works:**

Bill Owen

**Manager Financial Reporting:**

Melinda King

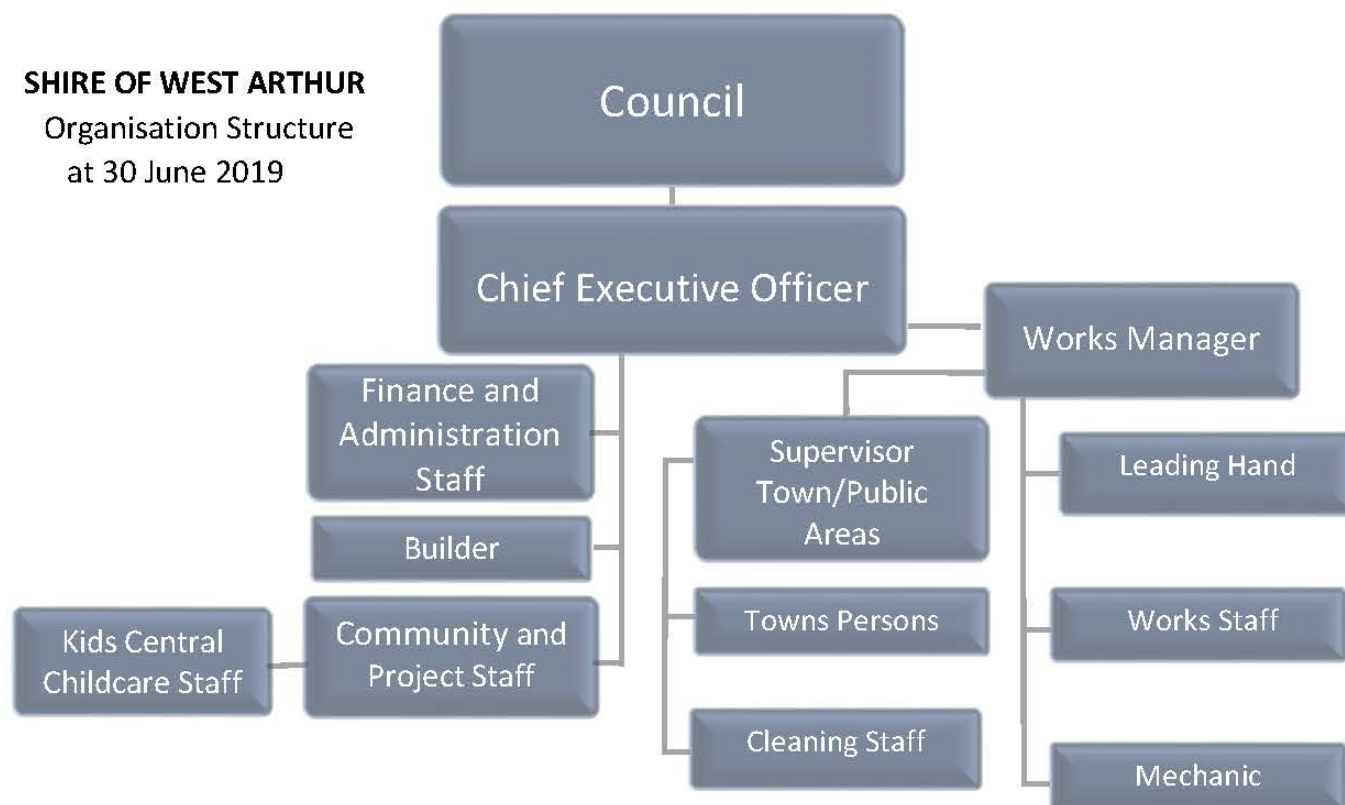
**Manager Financial Operations:**

Maxine McKenzie

**Manager Community Services:**

Kym Gibbs

**SHIRE OF WEST ARTHUR**  
Organisation Structure  
at 30 June 2019



## 8. THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The Shire of West Arthur completed a desktop review of the Strategic Community Plan 2017–2027 in June 2018. The Corporate Business Plan was also reviewed at this time and again in June 2019.

Our Corporate Vision is

“In 2027 the Shire of West Arthur will be a sustainable local government supporting a vibrant community”.

Our Corporate Mission is

“To value and enhance our community lifestyle and environment through strong local leadership, community involvement and effective service delivery”.

The plans are broken down into five key themes of community well-being, local economy, built environment, natural environment, and government and organisation.

The Strategic Community Plan identifies the community desired goals and outcomes for each theme, along with performance measures. It is the Shire’s long-term strategic planning document outlining the Shire’s commitment to achieving the vision and aspirations of the community. It is subject to a minor review every two years and a major review every four years. The next major review will be in 2019/20 after the 2019 ordinary elections.

The Corporate Business Plan expands on the outcomes identified in the Community Plan with strategies and actions. It translates the strategic direction of the Shire into specific priorities and actions as well as drawing together actions from the Shire’s informing strategies. It informs the annual planning and budgeting process.

The following pages summarise our progress during the 2018/19 financial year towards achieving the actions and priorities identified in our Corporate Plan.





## 8.1 Community Well Being

A safe and enabling place to live with a strong sense of identity and a thriving, active culture.

*Outcome 1.1: The Shire is a safe place to live, strives to reduce risks and is prepared for emergencies.*

Supporting our volunteer bushfire brigades to protect the Shire from bushfires is a high priority and includes raising community awareness of harvest and vehicle movement bans and fire risks, hazard reduction, and managing emergency services levy funds. Annually the Shire reviews Local Emergency Management Arrangements and Local Recovery Plans and liaises with other agencies, including Darkan Primary School and Darkan St John's Ambulance, and coordinates meetings of Local Emergency Management Committee.

We had a number of bushfires late in the season from lightning and escaped private controlled burns. The Shire is extremely fortunate to have many dedicated volunteers and we acknowledge their support, especially that of the Chief Fire Control Officer Duncan South and the Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer Chris Cochrane.

During the year the Shire received funding through the AWARE program to review Identifying risk factors for the Shire's five identified major community risks; Fire, Flood, Storm, Hazmat and Biosecurity. Funding for bush fire mitigation works around bridges and the Bowelling townsite was received.

*Outcome 1.2: People of all ages have the support they require to live and participate in the community.*

Funding was received from the Department of Communities to trial a senior's meals service. This service proved beneficial to our community and, with the support of volunteers, the service has continued beyond the completion of the trial. Meals are cooked in the Darkan Town Hall kitchen each Thursday and collected or delivered to seniors within the Shire.

The Shire subsidises the cost of providing an occasional bus service to Bunbury and also agreed to contribute towards the Shire of Narrogin's Patient Assisted Travel Service (PATS) in the 2019/20 year.

Support for Southern Agcare, Wagin Home and Community Care, and Westcare was continued, recognising the important services they provide in our community.

Kids Central continued to provide three day per week childcare at the Darkan Sport and Community Centre. Discussions continued with REED for the transfer of the of this service to the regional based model.

Other ongoing activities included the provision of six community housing units specifically for employees of local industry and people on low incomes and two homes leased to Government Regional Officers Housing for Education Department staff.



*Outcome 1.3: Physical and mental well being will be enhanced through a variety of sport and recreational opportunities located throughout the Shire.*

The extension to the West Arthur Health and Resource Centre was officially opened in September 2018. This expanded centre includes additional meeting rooms, more offices and expanded medical precinct and was made possible with the support of Lotterywest, West Arthur Community Resource Centre, Shire of West Arthur, Royalties for Regions and the Estate of Walter Bevan Hawthorn. The CRC and a number of medical services have free use of the centre which assists for the provision of regular services including weekly Stay on Your Feet and yoga sessions.

A new Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the West Arthur Community Resource for the management of the Health and Resource Centre with the Shire continuing to heavily subsidise the operational costs of the building. The Shire supports and subsidises the delivery of local health services from the Centre.

The installation of gates for the outlet at Lake Towerrinning were completed in 2018/19 with the assistance of funding from State National Resource Management. Children from Darkan Primary School assisted Shire staff and volunteers to plant seedlings on the banks of the Lake. The annual speed boat event was held at the Lake in November and the Department of Transport approved the installation of a slalom course for skiers. The Shire installed a cel-fi mobile booster at the Lake to improve mobile coverage to Lake users.

Funding through the Federal Government's Stronger Regions program was received for the installation of solar power to the Darkan Sport and Community Centre and the West Arthur Health and Resource Centre.

Federal funding was also received for improvements to the Darkan oval change rooms. In the 2018/19 financial year, a patio was installed on the northern side of the building, a ceiling was installed in the change rooms, and improvements were made to the steps for access to the oval. The remainder of the works will be completed in 2019/20. The Shire also refurbished the old toilets to cater for large events at the precinct.

The Shire supported the community led Football oval lighting project, with the installation of LED light fittings and run by generator. The lighting now meets the standard for training and match play.

The Shire's community financial assistance program continued with funding and support provided to the second Darkan Sheepfest.

The Shire provides and maintains a number of sport and community facilities including the Darkan Swimming Pool, Darkan Town Hall, Lake Towerrinning, Darkan oval, and playgrounds and public open space. Junior swim and baby swim classes were held at the Darkan Swimming Pool.

The Darkan Town Hall has had a resurgence in use with Junior Tae Kwon Do, adult fitness classes and badminton utilising the space.

In conjunction with the CRC the Shire offered subsidised entertainment events at the Darkan Hall; A Boy Named Cash and The Purple People Show were both well patronised.





*Outcome 1.4: Pride in our community and a strong sense of identity is forged from our cultural heritage and past and present achievements.*

Development of the Betty Brown Historical Centre, to be located in the West Arthur Health and Resource Centre, continued.

The Shire continued to support our community to look after our historical assets including 6 Mile Cottage, Duranillin School, Glenorchy School, Arthur River precinct, and Bowelling and Darkan railway precincts.

Organising and/or supporting community events including the annual Australia Day breakfast, ANZAC service, Cultural Day.

The biennial Cultural Day was held in September, with the various free activities including Traditional Welcome to Country; Dance Performance and storytelling with didgeridoo; Toy making and rock painting workshops; Professional artist painting poles with the theme of Six Indigenous Seasons; Russian Faberge egg making; Chinese paper craft; Traditional Mauri Tiaha and weaponry workshop; and the Faces of West Arthur Photography.

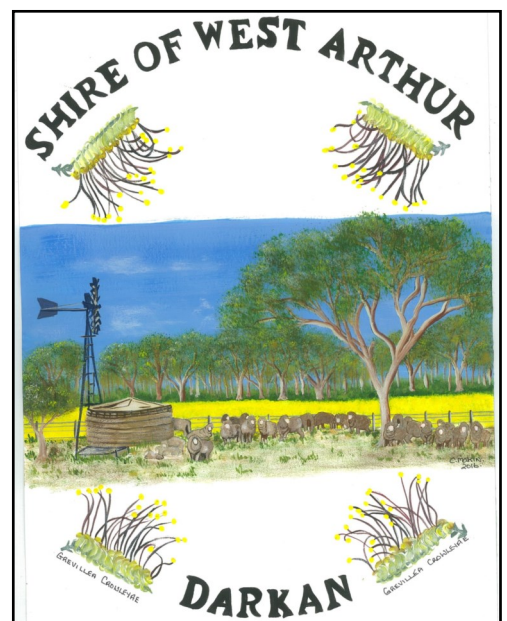
On Sunday 11 November 2018, community members came together to celebrate peace, remember the fallen and acknowledge the sacrifice of those who fought in the First World War 1914–1918. This was the inaugural Remembrance Day Ceremony held in the Shire of West Arthur. It was at this ceremony that the Shire's new Armistice silhouettes were unveiled.

The Shire received funding through the Armistice Centenary Grants to create an Armistice Remembrance avenue through the installation of a series of steel silhouettes sculptures placed on either side of the pathway linking the Shire office to the Darkan War Memorial. The silhouettes have been specifically designed for their individual meaning to create a collective story.

Funding from the Shire of West Arthur and the Departments of Local Government, Sport and Primary Industries and Regional Development, and Country Arts WA enabled the Darkan Photography Club to undertake a photography project called The Faces of West Arthur. The photographers documented portraits of 90 members of the West Arthur community. The resultant photographs were displayed at an exhibition at the West Arthur CRC and then were shown for six weeks on the Yagan Square digital tower in Perth.

Local artist, Mrs Makin painted the final non-digital banner for the Shire's Banners in the Terrace competition. Banners are now in digital form displayed on the Yagan Square Tower. Mrs Makin's interpretation of West Arthur included a rural setting with sheep, bushland and canola with a nod to the locally discovered and named Grevillea Crowlea. Another local artist, Denis Blake donated a painted picture of the Six Mile Cottage.

A report regarding the future of the 1950s section of the Arthur River Hall was prepared and a community meeting held. The community voted to retain the building and donated time and funds to complete renovations.



## 8.2 LOCAL ECONOMY

The Shire of West Arthur will be a vibrant, sustainable and growing community with active business and agriculture sectors.

*Outcome 2.1: The business community will be dynamic, growing and diverse, providing employment and economic benefits to the Shire.*

Following the completion of the Darkan Light Industrial Area, Council promoted the opportunity for the Shire to develop and lease a site to attract or retain a local business. Whilst no businesses have taken up the opportunity at this stage, there have been enquiries and the Shire will continue to promote.

The extension of Growden Place to improve access to the industrial lots in Coalfields Road was commenced during the year and will be completed in 2019/20.

The Shire maintained their local purchasing policy, supporting local businesses.

A mobile phone tower under Round 4 of the Mobile Blackspot project was announced for Darkan.

Following the closure of the NAB branch in Darkan, meetings were held with Bendigo Bank Collie to ensure the sustainability of their branch in Darkan. Whilst the Shire had held investments with the Bendigo Collie Community Bank, Council agreed to move the Shire's operational accounts in support of the continuation of the local service.

In partnership with the 4WDL VROC, the Shire undertook a digital census of the Shire. The outcomes of the census will assist staff with investigations into communications and technology improvements for the Shire.

*Outcome 2.2: Agricultural businesses will be viable and sustainable, providing employment and economic benefits to the Shire.*

The Shire continued to partner with Blackwood Basin Group for delivery of landcare services in the Shire.

Staff and elected members met with Wheatbelt Development Commission staff and Wheatbelt RDA representatives to discuss economic development opportunities around agriculture diversification.

*Outcome 2.3: The community will have a growing population which will support new business development.*

The Shire of Lake Grace was successful in receiving Federal funding for an Astro Tourism project which will include the Shire of West Arthur. This project will commence in 2019/20.

The Shire continued to manage the Darkan Caravan Park and Chalet which is popular with travellers and visiting trades and professionals.

Planning approval was given for Holiday Accommodation in Arthur Street Marrahbella Cottage.

The Shire continued to maintain and promote the Collie Darkan Rail Trail and maintained the appearances of the townsites and Arthur River.

New tourism brochures were developed for distribution in printed and electronic form.

The Shire leased the old Arthur River Post Office to enable the sale of crafts.



## 8.3 BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Shire of West Arthur will have well maintained infrastructure that supports the community and the economy.

### *Outcome 3.1: A well maintained road system.*

The total amount expended on bridge maintenance was \$866,030, including \$30,030 Shire funded preventative maintenance and \$830,000 Federal funded works contracted by Main Roads.

The total road construction program was \$1,168,051 including

Road Name	Description of Works	Total Cost	Funding Received
State Regional Road Group			
Moodiarrup Changerup Road	Widen and reseal	\$323,947	\$202,999
Bowellling-Duranillin Road	Reconstruct and widen shoulders, reseal.	\$245,388	\$152,001
Federal Roads to Recovery			
Bokal North Road	Gravel Sheet	\$67,297	\$65,743
Darkan Moodiarrup Road	Reconstruct and widen	\$181,089	\$180,640
Boyup Brook Arthur	Cement stabilisation various failures	\$59,493	\$59,493
Boyup Brook Arthur	Full construction and super elevation	\$86,503	\$86,495
Farrell Road	Replace culverts and reinstate floodway	\$18,837	\$18,329
Growden Place	Partial extension of road to Coalfields Road	\$90,105	\$90,105
Other			
Bokal South Road	Gravel sheet	\$68,934	\$68,934
Gorn Road	Gravel Sheet	\$26,455	\$18,087

Laneways at the rear of the businesses in Burrowes Street and the car park opposite the Darkan Town Hall were sealed along with the car park at the rear of the extended Health and Resource Centre.

An application was submitted for funding under the Commodity Route program to seal 5kms of Trigwell Bridge Road in the 2019/20 financial year.

The Shire liaised with school bus operators, tree planation companies and other road users to ensure maintenance needs identified were addressed as quickly as possible.

Three trucks were purchased including a small gardeners truck, six wheel tip truck, and prime mover as part of the Shire's plant replacement program.

### *Outcome 3.2: Sustainable well maintained quality facilities that support long term community needs.*

The expansion of the Health and Resource Centre was completed during the year under review.

A report was prepared and a meeting was held with the Arthur River community to determine the future of the 1950s section of the hall.

Building inspections were carried out to all Shire buildings.

The old toilets at the Darkan Town Oval were refurbished to enable use at large events.

### *Outcome 3.3: Attractive townscapes and public facilities for locals and visitors to enjoy*

The new parks and gardens at the expanded Health and Resource Centre were completed during the 2018/19 financial year. The gardens at the Darkan Williams Road and Coalfields Road intersection were updated along with many of the other gardens through Darkan.

Maintenance of public areas to a high standard continued throughout the Shire.

The Shire entered negotiations with Main Roads for the acquisition of the previous Arthur River Store site with a view to creating an attractive parking and picnic area adjacent to the Arthur River Hall for travellers and the community.

### *Outcome 3.4: Appropriate planning and development*

The Shire administered the Town Planning Scheme granting nine development approvals in the 2018/19 financial year.



## 8.4 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

### *Outcome 4.1: Sustainable management of water resources*

Waterwise plants were chosen for new gardens planted in the Darkan townsite.

The Shire applied for funding for improvements to the Kylie railway dam and storage.

The partnership with Water Corporation for reuse of scoured water continued. A review of standpipes connected to the scheme was undertaken and an agreement reached with Water Corporation for changes in the 2019/20 financial year due to changes to their pricing.

Shower heads in public facilities were replaced with low water use fixtures.

### *Outcome 4.2: Waste is minimised and managed sustainably*

The Shire lobbied the State Government to ensure that a container collection deposit refund site would be located in the Shire.

Ongoing waste programs included management of the Darkan and Duranillin refuse sites, refuse and recycling collections services and drummuster collection.

### *Outcome 4.3: Natural biodiversity of the Shire will be maintained and valued*

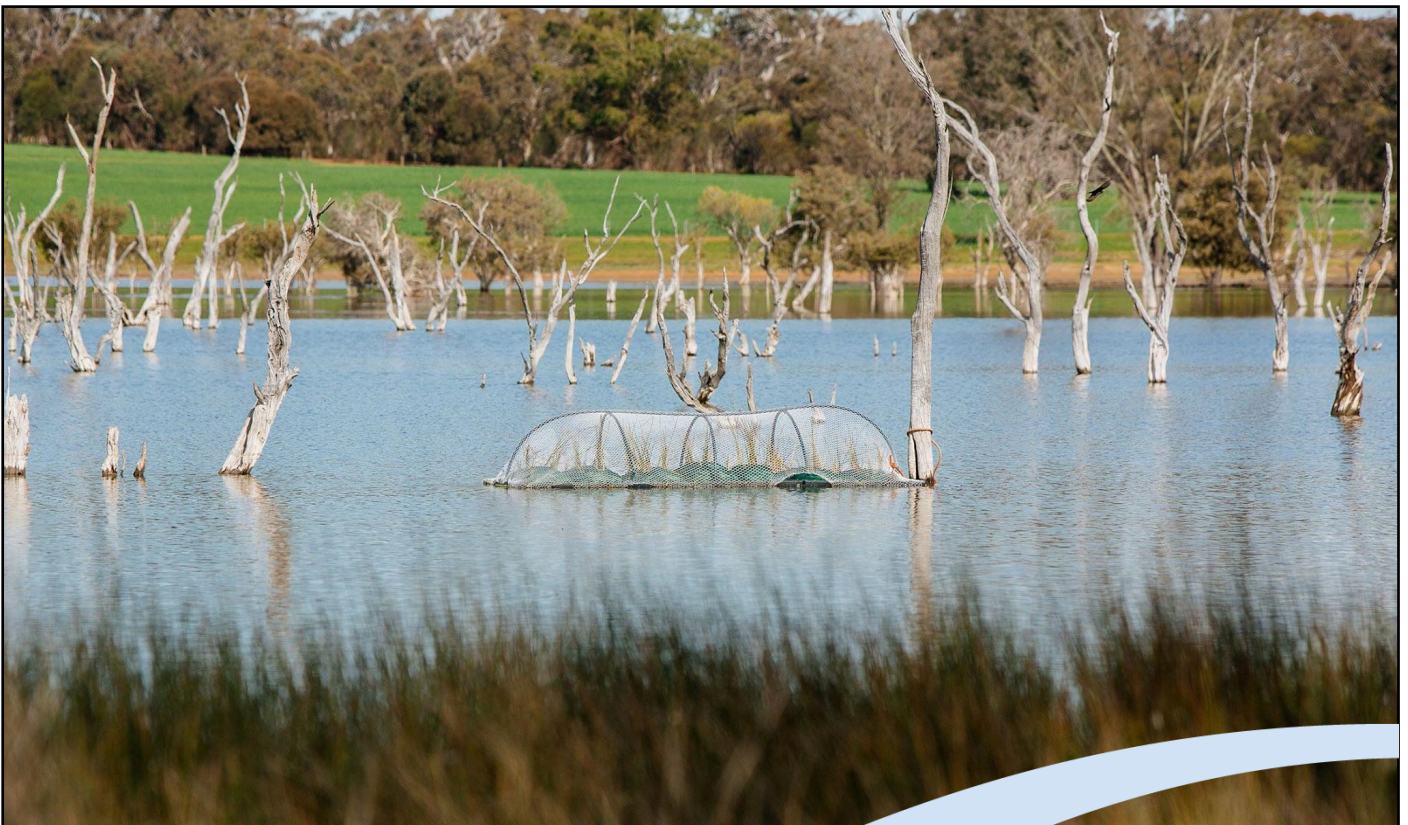
In partnership with the Blackwood Basin Group, the Shire employees a part time landcare officer. The Blackwood Basin Group facilitated access to State National Resource Management funding for local landholders, supported a landholder adjoining Lake Towerrinning to access funding for reed banks and revegetation, and supported the Darkan Primary School to access funding through a Landcare South32 grant. Education programs were held throughout the year.

Following the completion of the Health and Resource Centre extension, the herbarium has been reinstated in the Darkan library.

New seedlings were planted at the Lake with plants endemic to the area selected.

### *Outcome 4.4: Responsible land use planning will be undertaken with viability, sustainability, and the environment considered in all decision making.*

Initial investigation and discussions were held with relevant industry bodies and agencies into opportunities for agricultural diversification and use of palaeochannel water from the Hillman region.





## 8.5 GOVERNANCE AND ORGANISATION

Through strong leadership and responsible, ethical management the best outcomes will be achieved in partnership with the people of the Shire

*Outcome 5.1: Representation by skilled councillors to achieve the best outcome for the Shire*

Two elected members undertook WALGA training modules. Elected members and the CEO attended a forum in relation to the review of the Local Government Act.

*Outcome 5.2: Accountable service delivery by Council and well trained, motivated, customer focused staff.*

Flexible hours, housing and training were provided to assist the Shire to attract and retain quality staff.

The Shire's Corporate Plan was reviewed and the Shire received an audit report with no issues identified for the year from the Office of Auditor General and Lincolns. This is the second year that the Shire has been involved with the Office of Auditor General overseeing audits.

Local Government Youth Scholarships for TAFE courses were completed by two staff members extending their knowledge and skills.

*Outcome 5.3: Strong leadership in advocacy and planning to ensure the sustainability of the Shire.*

Elected members and staff continued to represent the Shire through involvement with the 4WDL Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils, Regional Road Group, and the Central Zone of WALGA.

A public hearing was held in March 2019 with the Western Australian Grants Commission. A number of Shire elected members and staff attended.

*Outcome 5.4: Active engagement with the community to optimise input into planning and decision making*

Engagement with the community was undertaken through the Bleat community newspaper, social media and the Shire's web site. Members of the public attended Council meetings as invited guests or to make a deputation to Council on specific matters of concern. Members of Council represented the Shire on external community committees including West Arthur Cottage Homes and West Arthur Community Resource Centre.



## 9. STATUTORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

### 9.1 National Competition Policy

The application of national competition policy in Western Australian local governments is guided by the Clause 7 Statement which requires annual reporting of the implementation, application and effects of NCP principles as well as structural reform of public monopolies and legislative review.

#### **(a) Competitive Neutrality**

The objective of competitive neutrality involves the introduction of measures effectively to remove any **net** competitive advantages arising simply as a result of local government ownership of business entity. Local government is only required to implement the principles of competitive neutrality to the extent that the benefits to be realised from implementation outweigh the costs in respect of individual business activities exceeding \$500,000 annual income.

The Shire did not undertake any activities or functions in 2018/19 year that met the financial benchmark.

#### **(b) Structural Reform of Public Monopolies**

The Shire does not have any activities or functions that are considered to be public monopolies and did not privatise any of its activities or functions in 2018/19.

#### **(c) Legislative Review**

All local laws have been reviewed for compliance with NCP and all amendments to existing and all future local laws are monitored to ensure no anti-competitive practices are included.

### 9.2 Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP)

In 2017, the Shire undertook a review of its Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) including consultation with key stakeholders and updating the DAIP to guide further improvements to access and inclusion.

The process included:

- examination of the initial DAIP and subsequent progress reports to see what has been achieved and what still needs work;
- consultation with key staff;
- consultation with the community reference to the Age-Friendly Communities study conducted in 2010

information from the 2015 Age Friendly Communities in Small Towns project and consultation with HACC, St John's Ambulance, Seniors Coordinator, Shire staff, seniors and community members.

The 2017–2022 DAIP has been completed and endorsed by Council and the Disability Services Commission.

Some specific outcomes achieved or currently being implemented in planning:

- Ensure new parking lots comply (eg Health and Resource Centre expansion) and ensure the bays are marked and the kerb on to the road is easily manoeuvred.
- Continue the implementation of the program of footpath upgrades including access ramps.
- Remove trees that create hazards from tree roots and replace damaged sections.

In addition to this, access at the sports oval and clubrooms and is under review to improve access from the buildings to the grounds and at the Lake Towerrinning to improve access from the grassed area to the beach.

### 9.3 Complaints Register

Section 5.121 of the Local Government Act 1995 requires the Annual Report to contain details of the entries made in the Complaints Register regarding complaints about elected members. There were no complaints recorded in the register of complaints in the year under review.

### 9.4 State Records Act

The Shire of West Arthur record keeping plan has been prepared to ensure compliance with Section 19 of the State Records Act 2000. A review of the Shire of West Arthur's Recordkeeping Plan was undertaken in 2016.

### 9.5 Freedom of Information Statement

In complying with the Freedom of Information Act 1992, the Shire of West Arthur is required to prepare and publish an information statement. The Shire's Information Statement was updated in June 2019 and a copy is available from the Shire Office and Shire website. The Shire had no Freedom of Information requests in the 2018/19 year.

### 9.6 Employee Remuneration

Section 5.53(2)(g) of the Local Government Act 1995 requires the Annual Report to contain details of the number of employees of the Shire entitled to an annual salary of \$100,000 or more and within each \$10,000 band over \$100,000. The following salaries include wages, superannuation, personal benefit value of vehicle, and other allowances.

\$120,000–\$130,000 one employee

\$140,000–\$150,000 one employee



## 10. THE YEAR AHEAD 2019/20

In the 2019/20 year, we look forward to the completion and opening of the Betty Brown Historical Centre in the West Arthur Health and Resource Centre. The project has unearthed old photographs, many objects from old families from the district and has resulted in reconnections with past members of the community (all who are keen to return for the opening of the museum).

The project also has resulted in an oral history project to record the history of those older members of the community that are able to tell us about the early settlers in the area and to provide us with an account of life in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The development of the Betty Brown Historical Centre has also allowed the Shire to reconnect with members of the indigenous community who grew up in the area. These connections have continued with the development of the 2020 Cultural Day program. Opportunities to discover local indigenous history and allow ex-residents to connect with country and share knowledge are becoming more prevalent, encouraging staff to form partnerships with organisations and Elders to continue to explore and celebrate this history.

In February 2020 the Shire will be launching its Astrotoursim Project that is being developed in conjunction with Astrotoursim WA (<https://astrotourismwa.com.au/>).

The project plan for the completion to redevelopment of the Darkan Railway Reserve will be completed and funding sort to enable the works to be completed during 2019/20 and 2020/21.

The works at the Darkan oval change rooms will be completed in time for the Darkan Sheepfest 2020, a toilet will be constructed at the Darkan Cemetery, and a new chalet will be commenced at the Darkan Caravan Park. Continuing to strive towards aged and dementia friendly communities in the form of a refreshed partnership with HACC and training for staff and families to assist with keeping residents in the community for longer with meaning, purpose and value will be a focus in 2019/20. Funding for a series of training workshops, awareness kits music workshops and drumming therapy has been applied for through the WA Department of Communities.

The Pioneer Memorial in the Darkan Railway Reserve will be completed with the addition of plaques acknowledging our pioneers.

The management of our waste refuse sites will be reviewed and planning put in place for their future management. The Shire will prepare for the introduction of the refund from container deposits.

Subject to funding and approvals, the Kylie Dam catchment will be restored and a tank for water storage installed for use for fire fighting and stock.

Our 2019/20 road program includes the sealing of 5kms of Trigwell Bridge Road with the support of State Government's Commodity Route funding, recognising the cartage on the road by the timber industry. Other works planned include the tie in of the extension of Growden Place to Coalfields Road

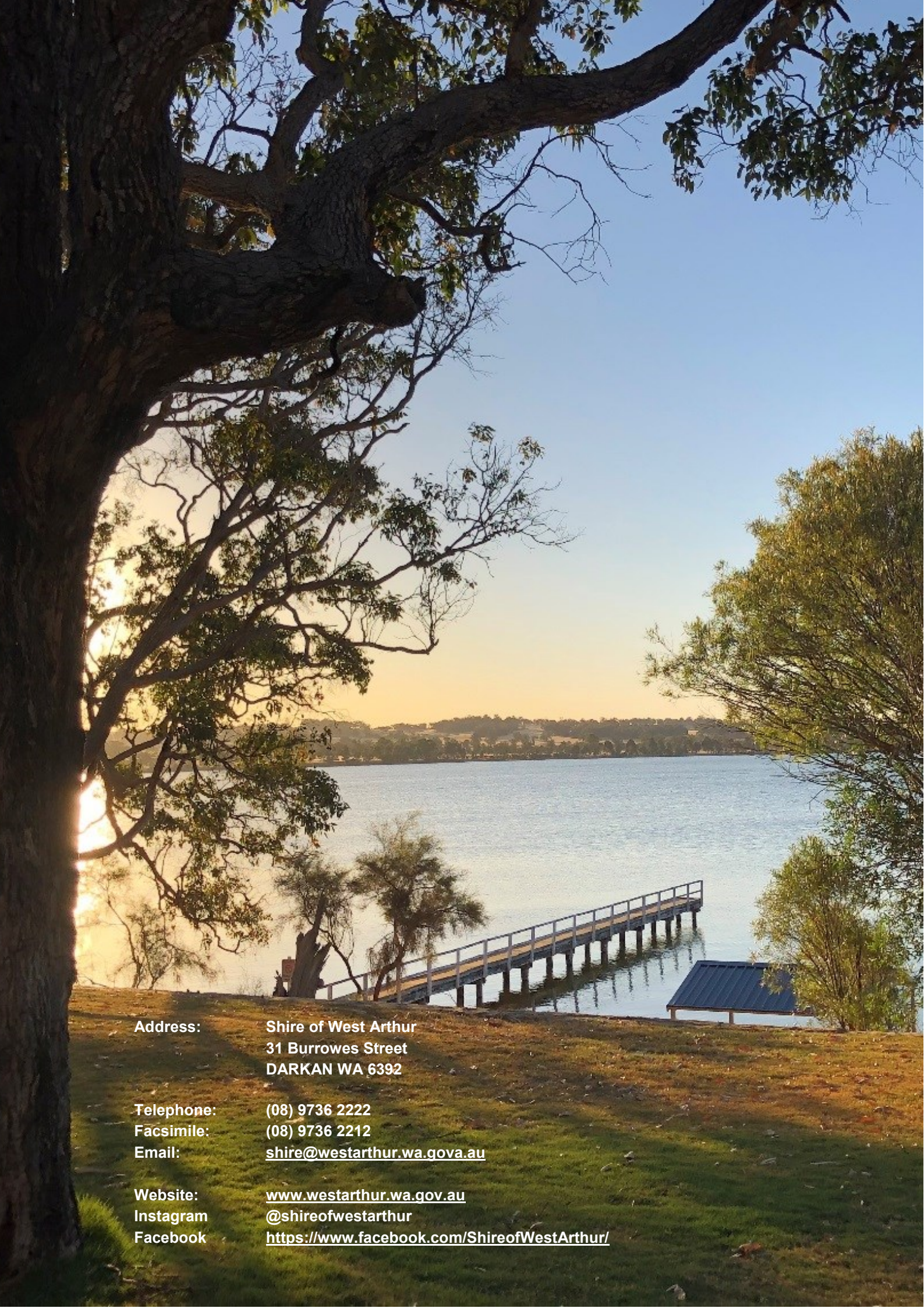
Our Community Strategic and Corporate plans will be fully reviewed in early 2020 which will guide Council's decision making into the future.

Councillors elected in 2019 will be required to undertake compulsory training following changes to the Local Government Act by the State Government.

We look forward to reporting on the implementation of the 2019/20 program and achievements.







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