



**STRATEGIC
COMMUNITY PLAN
2020 – 2030**
MINOR REVIEW 2023

A place for community,
opportunity and
prosperity

Contents

- 1 President's Message
- 1 Introduction
- 2 About the Shire of Meekatharra
- 2 The Integrated Strategic Planning Framework
- 3 How this Plan was Developed
- 3 Our Vision
- 3 Our Mission
- 3 Objectives - Our Vision in Action
- 4 Community Priorities in Each Objective



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.



Introduction

This Strategic Community Plan (SCP) was developed to guide the Shire's 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harvey Nichols'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Harvey Nichols, Shire President



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 1,200 (2021 Bureau of Statistics) indicates a stable population, with fluctuations over time 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:

- Fluctuation 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 with 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.

The 2020-2030 plan was then adopted in April 2021.

A minor (desktop) review took place in 2023. In a minor review the vision, mission and overall objectives remain the same and only the priorities and other relevant figures (e.g. Census statistics) are updated. This was workshopped with staff, referred to Council and publicised to invite submission from the public. The amended plan was then adopted at the December 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting.

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



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"> • Encourage and support community participation in sporting clubs, events and community activities. • Encourage and support the community to volunteer and self-manage new sporting and community activities. • Create spaces for the community to interact. • Prioritise projects that bring people together and strengthen community connectedness. • Provide opportunities to listen and involve the community in decisions that affect them.
Positively impact the social health and wellbeing of the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Local Public Health Plan. • Facilitate increasing information and advice promoting child safety. • Advocate for external service providers to respond to family and domestic violence needs of the community.
Develop a safe and engaging community for all ages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the feasibility of a child care service. • Monitor operation of Youth Services to meet community needs. • Develop a Social Plan. • Implement programs and events for senior citizens. • 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. • Review existing street lighting to ensure adequacy and service.
Ensure access to services and facilities as needs change within the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement service plans that detail the aim, level and frequency of service, and partnerships required to deliver services within Shire control. • Advocate for retention and improvement to health and education services. • Advocate widely for the upgrade/replacement of the Meekatharra Hospital.

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"> • Develop and maintain parklands. • Enhance areas of native vegetation (with informative signage) to provide a unique tourism experience in town whilst keeping water usage to a minimum. • Develop and implement rehabilitation plans for contaminated sites at the Depot and the Rubbish Tip.
Identify opportunities to use renewable resources and reduce waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop options to manage the efficient use of water and energy. • Explore options to reduce, reuse and recycle waste. • Conduct a waste study to divert waste streams from landfill where possible and improve operations. • Encourage and support community and external sustainability programs. • Encourage third party providers to install EV chargers.

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"> • Implement landscaping/street scaping in main street area and at strategic locations. • Maintain and enhance active and passive recreation parklands including playgrounds. • Develop an art mural trail.
Upgrade and maintain local infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide facilities to support community driven programs and activities. • Maintain historic and current cemeteries. • Review and continue to implement Asset Management Plans including roads, footpaths, buildings and structures. • Maintain the Meekatharra Airport to ensure ongoing capability for regular passenger transport services.
Facilitate the upgrading and maintaining of State Road Infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for the upgrading of the Wiluna-Meekatharra section of the Goldfields Highway to a sealed standard and continue to upgrade and seal Landor-Meekatharra Road and advocate for the sealing of the Wiluna-Meekatharra-Carnarvon regional link. • Maintain other commodity routes.
Create land use capacity for industry and housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to plan and develop further areas for new industrial opportunities.

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"> • Encourage new businesses through information, incentives and land-use provision. • Advocate for mining companies to construct accommodation facilities adjoining the town. • Advocate for passenger transport services to be maintained at adequate levels. • Assist businesses in attracting workers to the region by exploring housing options.
Position the Shire as the regional hub for the Murchison region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocating to be a hub for services and facilities e.g. transport, car hire, health etc
Maximise our economic potential through our historical, tourism and cultural attractions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand Lloyd's Plaza as a Tourist/Museum/Cultural Centre and town hub. • Develop the Murchison GeoRegion in collaboration with participating shires, highlighting the shire's abiotic, biotic and cultural features. • Update and renew trails and signage.

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





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