



Public Health & Wellbeing Plan

2025-2030



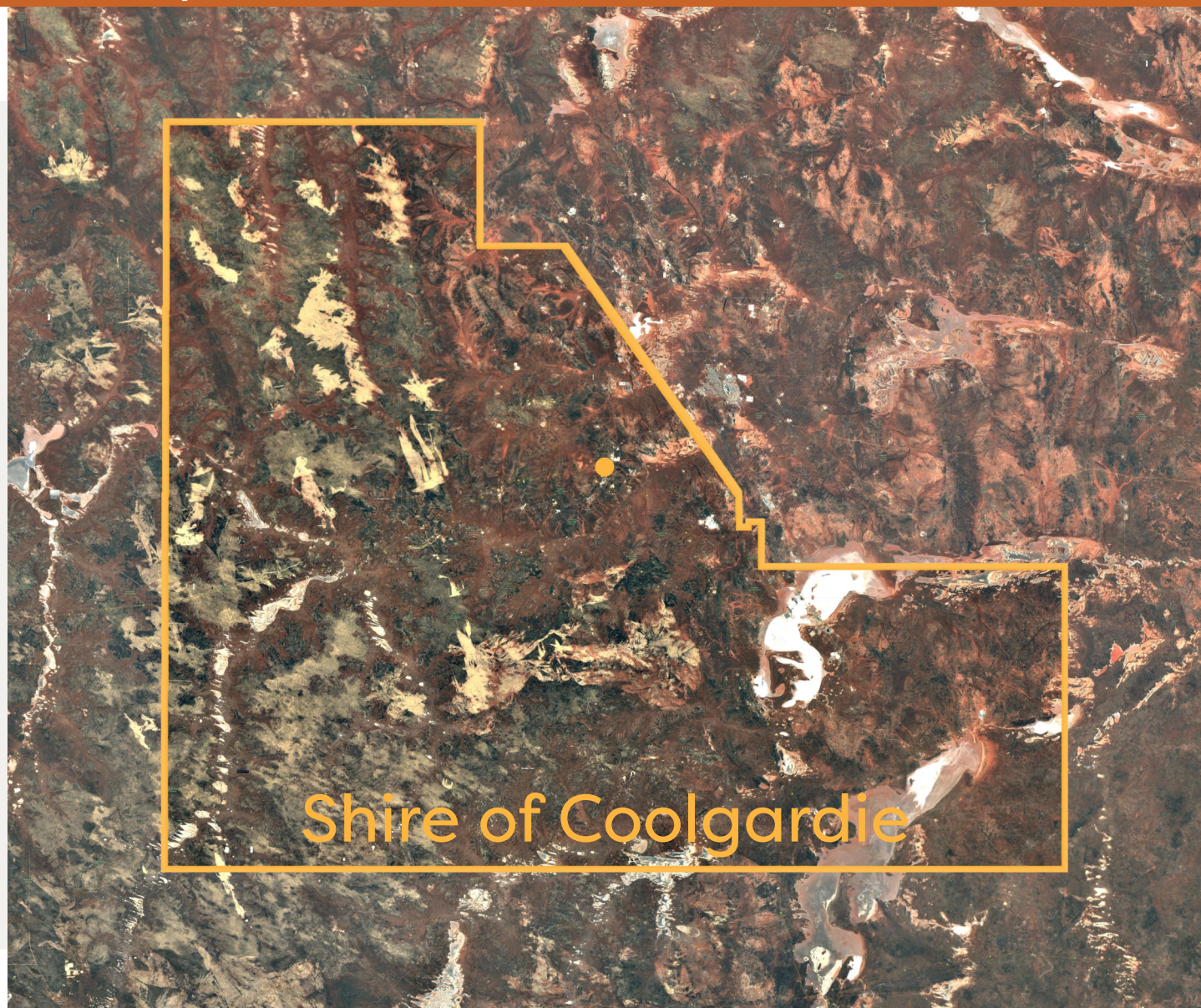
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Acknowledgement of Country

The Shire of Coolgardie respectfully acknowledges the Wangkatha people, the Traditional Owners of the country within the Council's boundaries.

The Shire has a strong resolve to strengthen ties with First Nations' organisations as they represent and work to enhance the life of the people who have inhabited Australia for more than 60,000 years and still have significant cultural and spiritual connection to the country.



Introduction

Research into the health of our people living and working in the Shire of Coolgardie has revealed a number of health and healthy lifestyle areas where we should be trying to make improvements. Compared with the averages for people living elsewhere in Western Australia, the health profile for our residents shows that more of us consume alcohol at rates risking long-term harm, fewer of us do the recommended amount of exercise per week, and we have higher rates of hospitalisation and/or death due to traffic accidents, neglect, and assaults.

Poor lifestyle choices lead to chronic illness and debilitating conditions such as heart and lung disease, stroke, diabetes, and cancer. All of these are preventable by exercising regularly, eating fruit and vegetables and reducing the consumption of alcohol, sugary drinks, smoking, and vaping.

This is the first Public Health Plan for the Shire of Coolgardie, and it is designed to identify the current health outcomes for our residents and workers, so we can prioritise programs which can have the most positive impact on our health. This Plan examines how our population feels about living in our Shire, and identifies local healthy living needs, recommending a number of strategies which we have incorporated into the Plan to improve the lifestyles of our community.

We encourage you to read the Plan and work with the Shire to support and adopt the strategies contained in the document.

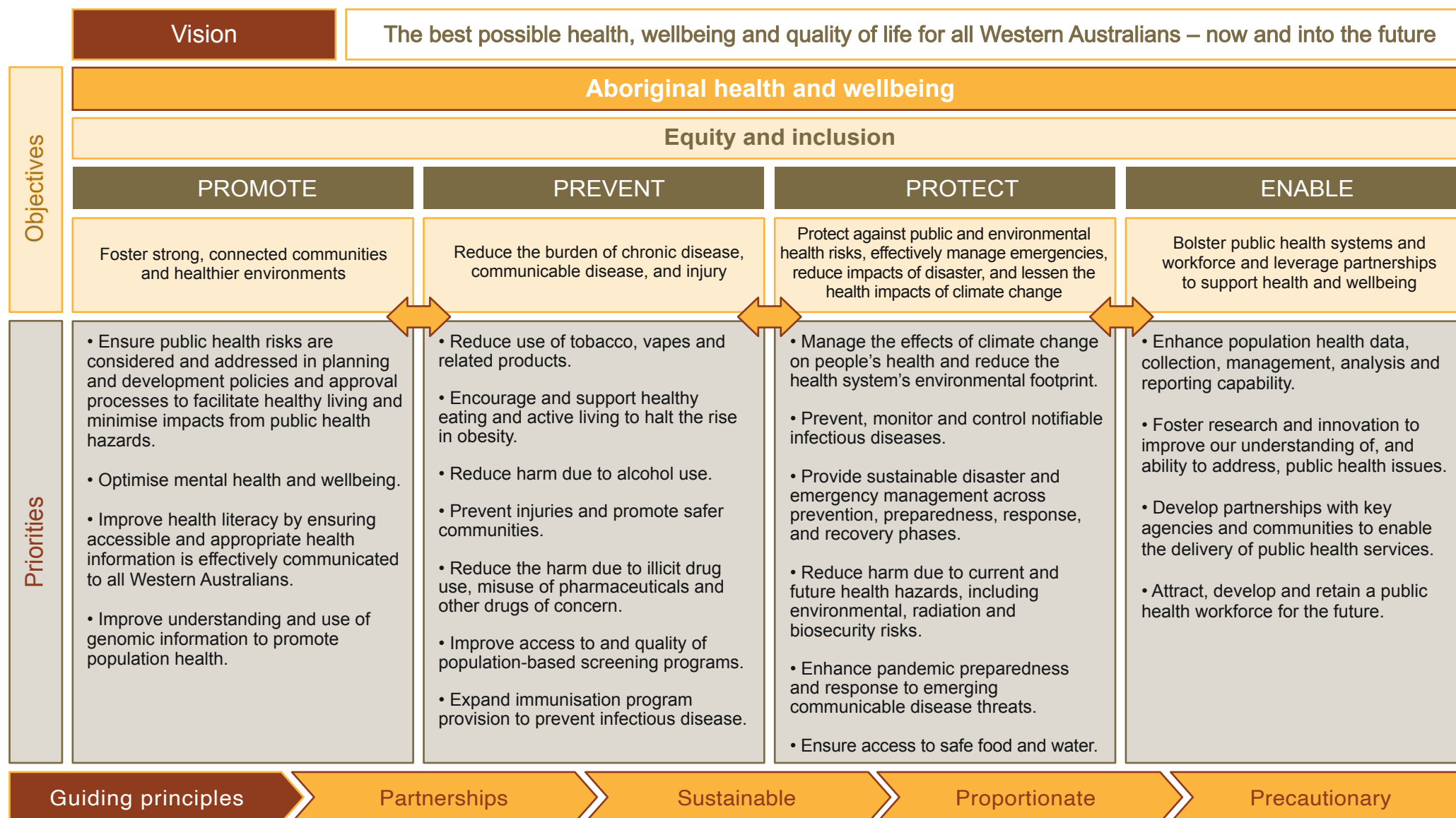
Cr Paul Wilcox

Shire President
December 2025

Aaron Cook

Chief Executive Officer
December 2025

WA State Public Health Plan



Our Current Health Role

The Shire of Coolgardie provides a range of funding to support the health of our community.



These are explained in more detail in the core business described here:

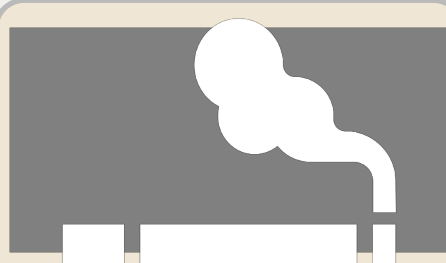
- Infrastructure and property services, including provision of local roads, footpaths, drainage, waste collection and management, and sewerage services
- Environmental Health Services to prevent and control environmental health hazards, emissions and communicable diseases (i.e., tobacco control, water and food safety, noise and air pollution and animal & mosquito control).
- Community care and welfare services.
- Cultural facilities and services, such as libraries, art galleries and places of historic importance and museums.
- Provision of recreation facilities, such as parks and sports fields, swimming pool, recreation centre and bowling club.
- Building services, planning and development control, including inspections, licensing, certification and enforcement.
- Administration of facilities, such as the cemetery, street parking, solid & liquid waste disposal sites.
- Local Government Health Law Enforcement, Ranger and Emergency Services.

Snapshot of the health of people living in the Goldfields Region



Traffic Accidents

Hospitalisation from injuries from traffic accidents higher than WA State average



Tobacco Smoking

Tobacco-attributable hospitalisations and deaths higher than WA State average



Alcohol Intake

Alcohol consumption a levels risking long-term harm higher than WA State average



Obesity

Levels of obesity and overweight slightly lower than WA State average



Exercise

People doing the recommended amount of physical activity per week lower than WA State average



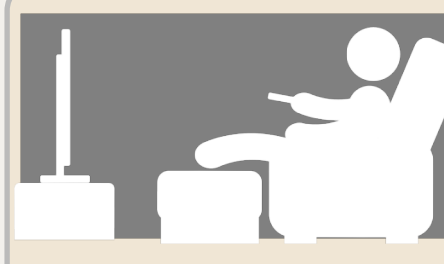
Daily Fruit and Vegetables Intake

People eating the recommended serves of fruit and veges slightly higher than WA State average



Mental Health

Reported Mental Health conditions lower than WA State average



Screen Time

Amount of time spent passively on screen-based activities per week lower than WA State average

The people of the Shire of Coolgardie speak - results from the Survey

AS THINGS ARE NOW

The four most serious health risks in our community are:

- Not enough exercise
- Being overweight
- High blood pressure
- Not enough fruit & veg

The top three most serious mental & social health issues in our community are:

- Loneliness
- Anxiety
- Depression

Our top three volunteering activities are:

- Community groups/services
- Public events
- Arts & culture

The sport & recreation facilities we use the most are:

- Swimming Pool
- Ovals & Playing Fields
- Walking Trails

What we like best about living in the Shire of Coolgardie:

quiet peaceful inclusive
sense of community
freedom the people the bush

CHANGE FOR THE FUTURE

Our top three programs to improve the health of our community are:

- Healthy living programs
- Road Safety programs
- Community events for residents

Our top four facilities or resources for good community health are:

- Disability access to buildings & recreation
- Affordable housing
- Safe Roads
- Aged care facilities

Our top three programs or resources to help us be more physically active are:

- Free fitness classes
- Public exercise equipment that is free to use
- Exercise/play equipment in parks that cater for various age groups

Our top three priorities to encourage the eating of healthy food:

- More healthy food options in takeaway/fast food outlets
- Healthy food options at sporting & community clubs & events
- If I knew more about quick ways to prepare healthy meals

I feel like my life has a sense of purpose (73%)

I am proud of the community where I live (55%)

There is strong community spirit in our Shire (52%)

I know where to get help when I need it (64%)

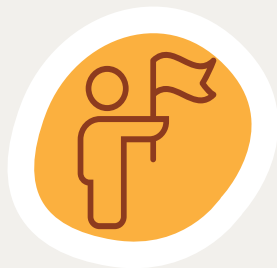
I feel the Shire cares about our welfare (29%)

I feel like I belong in my local community (43%)

I enjoy interacting with my neighbours (61%)

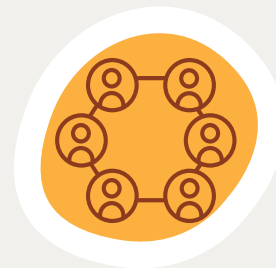
Community Strategic Plan 2018 – 2028

Our Vision



Accountable and Effective Leaders Engaged with the community

- Transparent, accountable and effective governance
- Advocate for the community



An Inclusive, Safe, and Vibrant Community A sense of place and belonging

- A safe and healthy community
- Celebrate our culturally diverse community



A Thriving Economy

Build economic opportunity and capacity

- Facilitate local business development and retention
- Pathways for young people into training and employment



Effective Management of Infrastructure, Heritage, and Environment

Value local culture and heritage

- Sustainable management of resources
- Enhance the built environment

Public Health and Wellbeing Plan Priorities

The Shire of Coolgardie supports the wider health and wellbeing outcomes of the Coolgardie Community by supporting and strengthening public health objectives, being:

PROMOTE	Foster strong, connected communities and healthier environments.
PREVENT	Reduce the burden of chronic disease, communicable disease, and injury.
PROTECT	Protect against public and environmental health risks, effectively manage emergencies, reduce impacts of disaster, and lessen the health impacts of climate change.
ENABLE	Bolster public health systems and workforce and leverage partnerships to support health and wellbeing.

Public Health and Wellbeing Plan – Actions

PROMOTE	PREVENT	PROTECT	ENABLE
Encourage healthy lifestyles choices through well managed events and recreation facilities through partnerships with aboriginal community groups and young people.	Encourage early screening opportunities for key health issues such as cancer screening, eye health and blood pressure/ cholesterol in association with community groups and allied health professionals.	Develop responses to Climate Change events through community preparedness and forward planning for emergencies such as road accidents, HAZMAT, flooding, bushfires and storms.	Collaborate with state government agencies and industry groups to enhance community resilience through the delivery of emergency preparedness programs.
Support community events by promoting smoke free and vape free environment by A frame signage & creating no smoking / vaping areas.	Conduct accessibility audits of public buildings (e.g. libraries, community centres) to ensure compliance with standards.	Conduct regular inspections of playgrounds to ensure they meet relevant safety standards.	Support community groups when applying for grants to offer healthier food options at Council co-ordinated events.
Promote healthier food options at Council organised events.	Working with allied health professionals, minimise the incidence of injury from falls for under 4-year-olds.	When designing outdoor public spaces consider shaded seating, lighting and drinking fountains in parks and town centres to encourage social interaction.	Review and implement the Shire's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.
Monitor the natural environment for future planning when reviewing and developing local planning policies.	Deliver education programs for correct disposal of hazardous waste (e.g. asbestos and other wastes).	Collaborate with WA Health to uphold and enforce tobacco control regulations in public areas.	

