

# Fact Sheet



## Overview

The Shire of Coolgardie, known as the “Mother of the Goldfields,” is the most populous Shire in the southern Goldfields of Western Australia. It is located some 550km east of Perth with its northern boundary beginning just 11 km from the heart of the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

The Shire is rich in history, particularly in relation to mining. The area experienced its first major gold rush in the late 19th century, attracting over 700 mining companies. Subsequently, the fortunes of Coolgardie and the neighbouring town of Kambalda have fluctuated in response to the ever-changing prices of gold and later, nickel.

Although relatively modest in size, the Shire boasts of tightly-knit communities that exemplify the strong themes of Explore, Discover and Act. The Shire is committed to ensuring their region’s sustainable future. This fact sheet showcases the Shire’s proactive approach to economic development, characterised by a strategic embrace of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles.



## CRC TiME

The Cooperative Research Centre for Transformations in Mining Economies (CRC TiME) combines the efforts of over 70 influential mining and mining service companies, regional development organisations, state and federal governments, as well as research partners. CRC TiME undertakes progressive research aimed at tackling challenges associated with mine closure and relinquishment.

CRC TiME recently partnered with The Shire of Coolgardie on the project “*Future-proofing a small local government authority against the impacts of the mining boom and bust cycle*”. The case study looked at the innovative approach of the Shire and our practical applications of research findings and innovations in a real-world context. With our rich mining history and dynamic economic landscape, it was found the Shire provides an excellent platform for implementing, meaningful and sustainable strategies.

The project showcased that the Shire has taken advantage of economic opportunities to build a corpus of funds to ride out the inevitable boom and bust sequences of mining environments. The Shire has worked on initiatives that ranged from waste recovery and circular economy projects, to strategic industrial development in the Mungari area.

We have also explored innovative investment opportunities, such as airport development and accommodation solutions tailored to the needs of critical workers. Through these collaborative efforts, CRC TiME highlighted how successfully we have demonstrated our commitment to addressing the challenges faced by mining-dependent regions and fostering resilience and sustainability in our communities.

To find out more information, please visit our website.

## Waste Recovery Initiatives

Central to the Shire's commitment to sustainable growth is our focus on responsible waste management. This includes particular emphasis on tyre recycling and the establishment of a Class III waste facility. These initiatives are key in addressing the region's substantial waste challenges and form the foundation of a circular waste economy.

The Coolgardie Waste Management Centre represents a pioneering endeavour that is set to change waste management in the region. With the capacity to process and separate plastics and tyres, it will play a significant role in transitioning the area towards a more sustainable waste management model.

By obtaining biofuel and char as by-products, the facility not only reduces the environmental impact of waste disposal but also generates valuable resources for the local community. This waste recovery initiative aligns perfectly with the Shire's commitment to ESG principles and its dedication to responsible environmental stewardship.

## Mungari Strategic Industrial Area

The Mungari Strategic Industrial Area (SIA) plays a pivotal role in the Shire's economic growth strategy and supports the expansion of the Goldfields region. Covering an extensive 696 hectares, this industrial site enjoys a prime location along the Great Eastern Highway, in close proximity to Coolgardie and Kambalda.

Owned by DevelopmentWA and designated as 'Special Use' under the Shire of Coolgardie Local Planning Scheme, the SIA offers an ideal environment for critical mineral processing. It represents a critical development that holds the potential to create substantial downstream processing opportunities for the Goldfields-Esperance Region.

Recently the Goldfields Industrial Area Working Group was established to develop a roadmap that will drive a coordinated approach to urgent land activation activities associated with the Goldfields industrial areas like Mungari. The Shire of Coolgardie is committed to collaborating with government authorities and project proponents. This collaborative effort aims to ensure the provision of necessary infrastructure, foster development certainty, and accommodate a range of industrial activities.

## Investment Opportunities

The Shire of Coolgardie is proactively pursuing a range of investment opportunities to catalyse economic growth.

These opportunities include:

- **Airport Development:** The Shire has redeveloped the Kambalda airport facility which will not only enhance regional connectivity but also provide vital logistical support for mining and industrial operations. The facility is poised to stimulate economic growth by facilitating easier access to the region.
- **Accommodation Initiatives:** Investment into worker accommodation to supply the expansion of mining projects and the construction boom has seen the completion of a 200-bed worker accommodation village within the Kambalda township with further plans to expand the site. The Shire has facilitated the re-zoning of land held by the Kurrawang First Nations peoples, to enable the development of worker accommodation on their land, supporting economic self-determination for the local First Nations community.

These investment opportunities demonstrate the Shire's proactive approach to economic development, its commitment to fostering strong partnerships, and its determination to secure a prosperous and enduring future for the region.

Through innovative ventures and a steadfast commitment to ESG principles, the Shire of Coolgardie is charting a course toward sustainable growth and resilience in the face of changing economic landscapes.



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