



# Community Vision



WEST  
WIMMERA  
SHIRE COUNCIL



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# Our West Wimmera Shire

West Wimmera is located in the western most part of Victoria adjacent to the South Australian border. Covering an area of 9,106km<sup>2</sup> it has a resident population of approximately 3,810 located in rural areas and our townships.

We have a strong business sector comprising over 780 businesses predominantly involved in agriculture, education and training, health care, forestry and fishing.

We are a welcoming community with a high level of participation in sport and recreation, volunteering, community events and we are proud of our history and our special natural attractions including lakes, rivers and parks.



# Engaging the community

The Shaping West Wimmera consultation process was held during June and July.

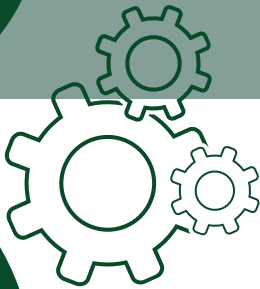
To prepare the Community Vision, Council Plan (incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan) and Long Term Financial Plan Council has undertaken an extensive engagement process.

Council convened a Community Panel by inviting expressions of interest from community members to participate on a citizen

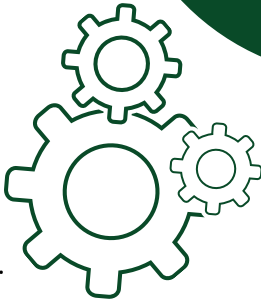
Panel to consider the Community Vision, Council Plan (incorporating the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan) and Long Term Financial Plan.

Shaping West Wimmera consultation and engagement focused on several key questions:

**Engagement involved 512 residents and had the following elements:**



On-line community survey with 270 completed surveys



Community listening posts attended by 63 residents were held at 7 towns

Activity sheets were completed by 179 children and young people held at three local schools



What the community loves the most and considers to be the strengths of the West Wimmera community?



The community's vision for West Wimmera Shire i.e. what type of community do people want West Wimmera Shire to be in 20 years' time?

The big ideas community members have for West Wimmera Shire.



What needs to change or be improved to achieve the community's vision or to deliver the big idea?

What are the biggest issues or concerns about the health and wellbeing of the West Wimmera community?



What should be Council's priorities for the next 4 years to meet the economic, environmental, social and health and wellbeing needs of the community?

# Children and Young People Feedback

Consultation results showed that children and young people most like to spend time with family and friends.

The activities they most like to participate in are recreation and sporting activities, playing or listening to music, playing video games and watching TV, spending time outdoors on the farm, at the lakes or going to the beach, visiting the local shops, going to the library, visiting local playgrounds or parks.

Recreation and sporting spaces, facilities and opportunities are really important to children and young people.



The recreation and sporting activities they like to participate in the most are skating, bike riding, motor bike riding and sporting activities like netball, football, hockey and tennis.



The recreation and sporting facilities and spaces they like to use the most are skateparks, the pool, the Recreation Reserve, netball courts, football ground, tennis courts, playgrounds, Fauna Park.



The recreation and sporting facilities and spaces they would most like to see developed or improved are bike tracks, BMX bike track, heated indoor pool (with water slides), the skatepark, a hockey field, basketball stadium, new netball courts, ninja warrior course, water park, mini golf course, a cinema, bigger and better playground.

Other ideas children and young people have for making their local community a better place to live are:

Improving services like the internet, public transport, health services including a Headspace program for young kids and young adults.

Improving roads and footpaths and cleaning up rubbish in our parks and towns.





# What The Community Values



The community places a high value upon the sense of community, belonging, friendliness and safety in local towns and the wider West Wimmera Shire. These attributes are essential to the community's future vision for West Wimmera, along with being a community that cares for each other, where people work together and support each other, and where volunteering is strong.



The natural environment, peace and quiet and rural lifestyle are highly valued by the community and considered to be assets that can help to attract people to visit and live and work in the townships of West Wimmera. The community has identified there is enormous opportunity to build a stronger tourism economy and to attract people to live and work in our communities by marketing these features.



## Community feedback for Community Vision for West Wimmera in 20 years.

We value diversity, are inclusive of everyone and remain friendly and welcoming for all. Women are valued and supported to contribute to our community.



Our population is growing

Our population is growing and diverse in its make up (families, young people, older persons, farming families), and this is underpinned by our ability to adapt and evolve as a community.



Our community is active, healthy and safe

Our community is active, healthy and safe. We have access to the right services to help our community to thrive including childcare, utilities, health services (acute services, mental health, older adults and allied health), retail services and public transport.



We value the natural environment

We value, protect, and enhance our natural environment and open spaces. Lake Wallace is full, Kaniva has a manmade lake, we have more walking tracks as they are great assets for the local community and an attractor for visitors.



Our economy is thriving

Our economy is thriving with strong primary and secondary industries, new businesses, a strong tourism and visitor economy. Supporting this there will be substantially increased access to childcare and housing, a road network that supports the movement of goods and people, town streetscapes that are attractive, pedestrian friendly, and offer great experiences to attract visitors to our region.



A diverse and inclusive community

We offer vibrant community, cultural, recreation and sporting activities and opportunities through our thriving community groups, and by providing the right community infrastructure in the right locations.



Sustainable businesses and services

We have sustainable businesses, practices, environment, services, and agriculture, and we focus upon educating our community about sustainability.



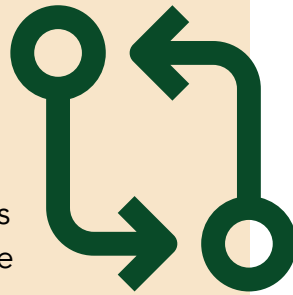


# What Needs to Change and Why

## What needs to Change and Why

The community believes the things that MOST need to change to deliver on the vision are:

- More employment opportunities
- Better access to childcare
- Improving the road network
- Improved health services and programs
- Activities and support for young people
- Public and community transport
- Activities and supports for children and families



## These need to change because:



Our population is declining and consequently the businesses and services available to our community are reducing along with employment opportunities.



The lack of childcare means it is difficult for both parents to work, hard to attract and retain qualified professionals (and their families) to work in our community, particularly health and community service professionals, new businesses cannot establish and grow, and our townships cannot grow and thrive.



The condition of our roads is variable and, in some locations, very poor. Our roads should enable the safe and efficient transport of goods and people.



Access to community and health services is poor. We cannot attract and retain community members if we don't have access to services.



Our community infrastructure needs to be improved so we can attract visitors and better support our community.



We find it difficult to retain young people and families in our community because employment opportunities are limited, and childcare is not available.





# Community Vision



The community's vision for West Wimmera has been developed by the community through the Shaping West Wimmera consultation program conducted during 2021. It will guide Council's strategic planning out to 2041.

The Community Vision forms part of Council's strategic planning framework and has informed the development of the 2021-25 Council Plan.

The Vision is supported by future directions which reflect key areas of focus and priority for Council and the community.

Council looks forward to working with the community and our partners to work towards the community's vision for West Wimmera in 2041.



# Vision

In 2041 West Wimmera is a great place to live, work and play.

We are growing and we are known for our natural environment, resilience and sense of community.

We are proud of our farming heritage and are building new economic capacity based on innovation and tourism and which is creating local employment.

Our towns are vibrant and welcoming, offering the services and facilities that meet the needs of our community and visitors.

We are a confident community and will empower everyone to be part of our future.



## Future Directions

Active, healthy and safe – supporting our community to live full and rewarding lives.

Access to the right services – working confidently with partners to ensure health, education and digital services meet our needs.

The natural environment – valuing the time our community and visitors spend enjoying the natural environment and working together to protect it.

Our roads – a safe and sustainable road network supporting businesses, our community and visitors.

Attractive and viable Town centres – great places to live, visit and do business.

Thriving economy – taking advantage of our strengths in farming, business and tourism to generate employment and share our prosperity.

Sport and recreation – facilities that encourage participation in physical activity and add to community life.

The West Wimmera Community Vision will guide and inform Council planning and priority setting processes into the future.

Specifically:



### **Council Plan**

Council Plan – so that Council’s resources, services and activities align with the Community Vision.



### **Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan**

Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan – to ensure that our community’s aspiration for an active, healthy and safe community is supported.



### **Long Term Financial Plan**

Long Term Financial Plan – to ensure the long term financial sustainability of Council so that investment in services and infrastructure can keep pace with needs.



### **Capital Works Program Planning**

Capital Works Program Planning – guiding investment in community infrastructure to support community and economic activity.

# Future Council Planning





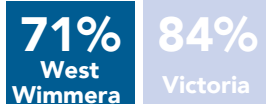
# Our Shire Statistics



People in the community living alone



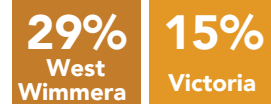
Population can access the internet from home



Access to high speed, reliable internet



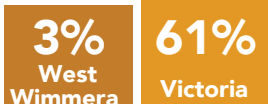
People report 'poor' access to mobile phone reception



People reported 'poor' access to general health services (GP's, general health consultation services)



People report having 'good' or 'very good' access to public transport



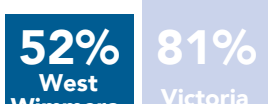
People eat the daily recommended serves of vegetables



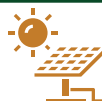
People eat recommended daily serves of fruit



People reported 'good' access to fresh fruit & vegetables



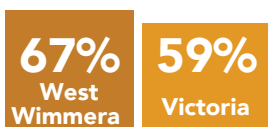
Adults who are inactive or have insufficient physical activity levels



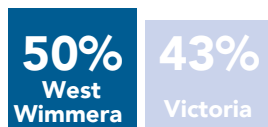
Private dwellings with small-scale solar systems  
Rate per 1,000 households  
West Wimmera 201  
Victoria 160



Population have an increased lifetime risk of alcohol related harm



Population have an increased risk of injury from a single occasion of drinking

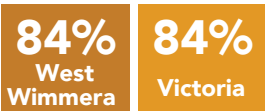


Source Data:  
www.wimmerapcp.org.au  
Wimmera Primary Care Partnership -  
Community Health and Wellbeing Profile 2021

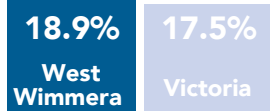
# Our Shire Statistics



Population like the environment and surrounds they live in



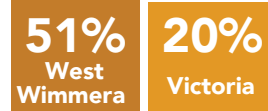
Amount of LGA is national park or other protected area



Population feel safe walking at night



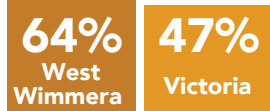
Population chooses to volunteer regularly



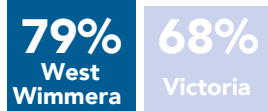
Population that chats with neighbours regularly



Population that attend community events



People feel a part of their community



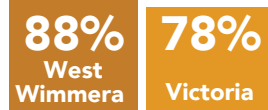
People take part in sports groups or teams



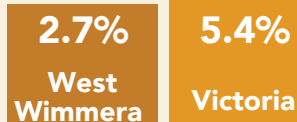
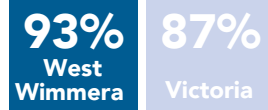
2019 Days over 35degrees Celsius  
West Wimmera South 34  
West Wimmera North 53  
Melbourne 32



People feel proud to live in LGA



People say they can get help (from family or friends not living in their household) in an emergency



Unemployment rate

Source Data:  
www.wimmerapcp.org.au  
Wimmera Primary Care Partnership -  
Community Health and Wellbeing Profile 2021



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