

Sharon Diver  
8 Randall Street,  
Wagin 6315  
16 June 2026

Shire of Wagin  
2 Arthur Road  
Wagin 6315

As a member of the Wagin's community for the past 20 years, I wish to discuss the Shire of Wagin's "Strategic Community Plan (2026 – 2036)". There are some good positive thoughts in the plan – recognising that the population is aging and that needs of this demographic need to be addressed, economic development to be encouraged, roads will continue to be maintained, environmental support, safety for all, children and young people to be included, visual amenity, emergency management for our local services, supporting volunteers and active community participation. Has the fact we are now a multicultural community with our population coming from many countries the world over been considered as well?

I feel we need to address some of these through encouragement of attracting and retaining a younger population to support the aging community, to allow our local school to offer options for the rural and multicultural young student population, to engage as a volunteer in our emergency services providing care for our community, to be able to work at our various local businesses and continue then continue to manage or own them in the future, and because we need a wide age range in our population to create healthy community.

I would like to see some housing for the younger single people of a community available whether through private provision or shire provision – something similar to the Cottage Homes set up. Maybe as the Cottage homes builds new units in Khedive Street, the older ones near the railway line could be rented out to our younger population? Or building some new units that are able to provide training / apprenticeships for our younger population and eventually turn into their own accommodation.

We need to encourage tourists to visit and stay longer in Wagin. A better located caravan park with up to date facilities would promote our town as well as keeping the alternative RV camping area neat and tidy. Promotion of our Historical Village and town widely via social media as well as updating the interactive facilities – Face book, TikTok, Instagram etc, and the WA tourism industry.

The redevelopment of the old Town Board building as a tourist information building in the town square central area which has a wonderful shaded area for parking of different vehicles. Continuing to support and encourage our local businesses to update their facades, and another promotion of a ‘shop local’ deal with incentives for shopping in Wagin. Promotion of our various businesses within the strategic plan – groceries, clothing, pharmacy, aged care, service stations, tyre workshop, mechanical and car repairs, bank, post office, hardware, meals at the deli or pub or roadhouse, etc. Some of the businesses have been located here for over 100 years and so deserve to be recognised.

The photos with the Strategic Plan are great but a couple are out of date – Our movie theatre is now called The Little Gem Theatre, the photo of the Rotary group singing is from Australia Day several years ago, and the Woolorama photo shows a person connected to a stud that is no longer runs a stud. I feel it is important to include up to date information which includes photos. The CommunTEA Hub at the Uniting Church hall is such an important part of many people’s lives – no photo or information is included. The Wagin District High School, along with Essantis, Grain Feeds, Gilmac, Waratah, and the Wagin Hospital – are all key employers in Wagin and need to be recognised along with the Shire of Wagin and such information should be included.

The information about the shire's Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) isn't clearly explained and I would like to see a better explanation regarding the ranking levels and how it impacts our town. I know the average age a resident of Wagin is 56 years, being the oldest average age in the wheatbelt area! We need to retain the younger population to lower this average.

Has the fact we are now a multicultural community with our population coming from many countries the world over been considered as well? Do our new different cultures need other requirements for their aging population? Do our local indigenous people also require care in their community? Are these different populations also counted in their need for aging in Wagin?

The volunteer services and social activities are not all mentioned – SES, Fire Brigade, St John Ambulance, Little Gem Movie Theatre, Stay on Your Feet and Chair Exercises, WAGS – Wagin Action Group, Lions, Rotary, Woolorama, CWA, the Bowling / Football / Hockey / Netball / Go Cart / Old Time Dance etc clubs are some that I am aware of. They all provide a pivotal role within our shire.

The previous report of 2020-2030 contains far more information for development and goals included in the 38 pages compared with the current report of 2 pages. How was the community opinion sourced and included in the new report? There is no information on the financial situation, services available in Wagin, planning information, key goals for the short and long term and other relevant information.

I would like to see this Strategic Plan document of include more detailed information for the ratepayers and members of the community of the Shire of Wagin. It should reflect our now multicultural, multi aged community.

I am looking forward to see the Shire of Wagin's response to this feedback.

Regards Sharon Diver.

## Kenneth Parker

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**From:** Kenneth Parker  
**Sent:** Thursday, 18 June 2026 10:18 AM  
**To:** sarjdiver@westnet.com.au  
**Subject:** RE: Shire of Wagin Strategic Plan Review Feedback

Good morning Ms Diver

Thank you for taking the time to consider the draft Strategic Community Plan and provide comment.

I think that you make some good points.

In preparing the draft plan one of the main objectives was creating a plan that stood out from other Strategic Community Plans.

Reading through Strategic Community Plans across the state it was clear that every plan was similar and reiterated the same goals of economic development, tourism environmental protection and community activation.

Such is the repetition in Strategic Community Plans that a Tasmanian Council recently wrote their plan using A.I ([Council uses AI to inform 10-year plan for 'more depth' at 'fifth of the price' - ABC News](#))

With this sameness I think the plans lose relevance.

In discussing the plan with Council our aim in the draft was to create a very focused plan.

In doing so the draft plan could not be everything to everyone. To keep the document clear and focused, it doesn't capture every element of community life in detail, but those elements remain important and are addressed through other planning documents and initiatives.

The goal of the draft Strategic Community Plan is capture the organisation's objectives as succinctly as possible. It is the organisation's objectives distilled in the shortest form possible. Something that could be explained in a short lift ride.

Within the Integrated Planning Framework the Strategic Community Plan is the highest level visionary document. The Strategic Community Plan is supported by a [Corporate Business Plan](#) and a series of informing documents, plans and strategies. It is in these documents, especially the Corporate Business Plan, Annual Budget and Annual Report that the detail that you seek is provided.

As you point out we have scores of wonderful community, sporting and service organisations. Mentioning one risks not mentioning another which causes offence.

We also have wonderful small and large businesses. You are correct that they deserve recognition but I think there are better places like the Chamber's calendar.

As your concerns allude this is the risk in trying to capture Wagin in a handful of photographs. They capture something but everything at a specific time and place.

The issue of attracting and retaining a younger population is challenge being experienced by regional areas across Australia and is a pattern in places afar field as Europe, the United States, Canada and Japan.

There are whole schools of urban planning and Departments established to understand and reverse these trends.

My perspective is that if we follow every other regional community we will achieve the same results. We need to think differently. In my mind this means building the economic base that recreates the economic incentive that drove people to live in the wheatbelt in the first place. In that sense objective one is very much targeting sustainability.

I appreciate your suggestions and next time you are around the Shire I would like to discuss the various projects we have underway.

The Strategic Plan will be considered at Tuesday's Ordinary Council Meeting at 7.00pm along with many other important matters and members of the public are welcome to attend.

Kind regards

**Kenneth Parker**  
Chief Executive Officer

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*Wagin is home of the Giant Ram and Wagin Woolorama*

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**From:** [sarjdiver@westnet.com.au](mailto:sarjdiver@westnet.com.au) <[sarjdiver@westnet.com.au](mailto:sarjdiver@westnet.com.au)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 June 2026 4:57 PM

**To:** Shire of Wagin <[shire@wagin.wa.gov.au](mailto:shire@wagin.wa.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Shire of Wagin Strategic Plan Review Feedback

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Please find attached feedback on the Shire of Wagin's Strategic Plan 2026-2036

Thank you for the opportunity to be able to do this.

Regards Sharon Diver