



Shire of Wagin Strategic Community Plan (2026–2036)

Cultivating prosperity and wellbeing through connectivity and community

1. Introduction

This Strategic Community Plan describes the Shire of Wagin's vision and aspirations for the next 10 years.

It has been prepared under section 5.56 of the Local Government Act 1995. Legislation requires that in making or reviewing a strategic community plan, a local government is to have regard to —

- the capacity of its current resources and the anticipated capacity of its future resources; and
- strategic performance indicators and the ways of measuring its strategic performance by the application of those indicators; and
- demographic trends

The vision for the Shire is 'Cultivating prosperity through care, connectivity and community'. This vision has been informed by the agriculture history of the Shire and our objective to grow and improve livability.

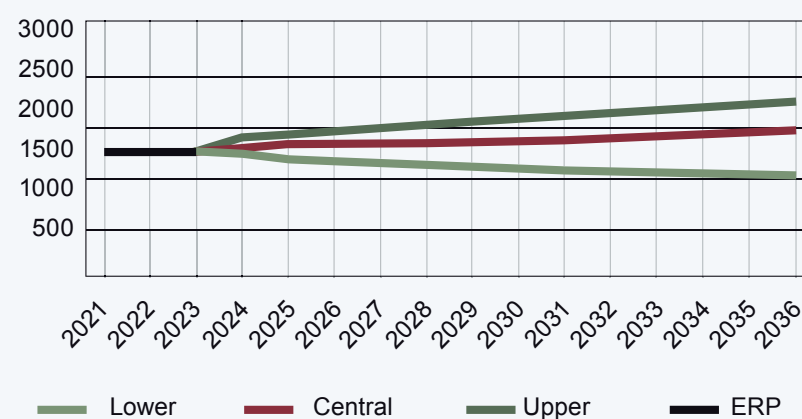
Our Shire seeks to achieve this by making a community where prosperity and wellbeing is the goal achieved through high quality services and connections both infrastructure and social.

2. Demographic trends

Wagin's population forecasts project that Wagin will grow.

The Shire of Wagin will also grow older.

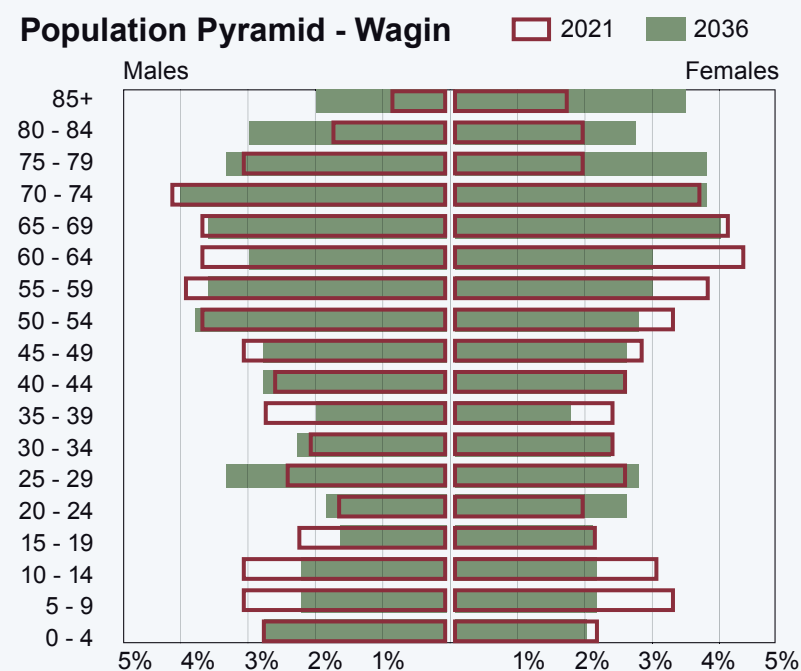
Total Population Forecast - Wagin



By 2036 the Shire is projected to have a

39.6% & **144%**
increase in people over 65 years of age increase in people over 85 years of age

Population Pyramid - Wagin



Growth or at the very least population stability is a reasonable expectation as the Shire's population is similar to that of more than 100 years ago.

While there has been changes in the industries that are the backbone of the wheatbelt the population has continually renewed.

Agriculture continues to be major source of employment in the district. More than a quarter of the population is employed in agriculture with the next largest industry being health care and social assistance. These are expected to continue to be major employers despite the potential for new industries such as renewable energy projects.



3. Strategic Themes

For more than 100 years Wagin has been an agricultural community that supports its surrounds through business and services. Its historic buildings in the Main Street reflect both the perseverance and stability of the community.

This Strategic Community Plan sets out two themes to guide direction into the future:

- Building agriculture and support industries
- Supporting our community age, especially by aging in place.

In setting these strategic themes, the Shire has established areas of focus.

The Shire provides for the good governance of the district by delivering many services and types of infrastructure for the community. Economic development, roads, environment, safety, children and young people, visual amenity, emergency management, supporting volunteers and active community participation are areas where the Shire will continue to invest.

For more than 100 years the Shire has thrived as an agricultural community and agriculture overwhelmingly provides the basis for prosperity in the community.

The Shire is aging and will continue to grow and grow older. The forces that are resulting in this demographic change are largely beyond the Shire's control. Investing in becoming an age friendly community that is capable of supporting an aging population through community services and infrastructure is a priority.



Theme 1: Building agricultural and support industries

Our aim is to strengthen Wagin's agricultural and support industries.

Our role in this regard is providing an environment for agriculture and support industries to flourish.

We directly provide transport connections and advocate for improvements in water, power and digital connectivity.

We provide support for industries to have a healthy and socially engaged workforce through good town planning, parks and gardens and sporting facilities. We recognise the importance and support Wagin Woolorama as a place regional Westerns Australians particularly to come together to both celebrate and do business.

We protect our community through support for emergency management, especially bushfire prevention, control and recovery.

How we plan to do it:

- investing in roads to ensure safe and efficient movement of people and commodities
- provide opportunities for industrial land development
- advocate for benefits to our community from the renewable energy transition
- support residential and commercial growth by encouraging land development
- provide an environment where businesses large and small can prosper
- invest and support our emergency prevention, response and recovery resources, especially our people
- manage waste effectively
- build a town a people want to live, play and work to ensure there is a skilled workforce to draw upon

Theme 2: Supporting our community age, especially by aging in place

Our aim is to ensure the residents can live well, safely, and actively.

The Shire currently directly provides Homecare Services to more than 5 per cent of the Shire's population. We also partner with a provider to ensure that General Practitioner services are available to the community and provide support to the Waratah Lodge.

In the last five years the Shire has invested in footpaths and improved kerbing. We have also invested in grants for community groups to encourage older people to actively participate in social and cultural activities.

At the same time, the Shire is working to ensure that there is sufficient workforce and volunteer base for the community's long-term sustainability. This involves maximizing the livability of the community and encouraging land and housing development through the avenues available to the Shire.

How we plan to do it:

- increasing walkability and accessibility of Shire buildings and facilities
- ensure the availability of Homecare services
- ensure that our town planning supports developments for aged care facilities
- providing recreational opportunities including those that embrace our natural environment
- harness our water resources to enable parks and gardens to thrive and improve our urban canopy
- performing our regulatory responsibilities through a complaints based approach
- support community facilities that enable aging in place

4. The Shire's capacity to deliver

The Shire seeks to deliver the best infrastructure and services it can while minimising the financial impost on the community. This involves striking a balance between meeting expectations for high quality services and infrastructure while constraining the need for greater revenue.

Delivering a greater service offering involves a combination of changing the service profile and reducing services in some areas, increasing the rates burden on current ratepayers, growing the rates base through new businesses and ratepaying residents, increasing grant funding or diversifying revenue streams.

The extent that the Shire is able to deliver on the vision of this Strategic Community Plan is contingent on the appetite of the community to bear the cost of implementation.



5. Strategic performance indicators

The Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, is a nationally recognized measure that ranks communities based on relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage. SEIFA combines key factors such as income, education, employment, and housing to provide a comprehensive picture of community well-being.

The Shire of Wagin has adopted SEIFA as its sole strategic performance indicator because it offers a holistic, evidence-based benchmark that reflects the outcomes of our strategic priorities—supporting economic development and enhancing quality of life for all residents.

The Shire's SEIFA rankings over recent census periods demonstrate this trend: 2011 – 184, 2016 – 161, 2021 – 153 demonstrate relative improvement in community wellbeing and prosperity.

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