

# COUNCIL PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT August 2025 – January 2026

STATUS TRAFFIC LIGHT:

Not Commenced

In Progress

Completed

## 1. Our Community

### Vibrant, connected community, promoting well-being and inclusion

Strategy	Activities	Term	Status
1.1 Support an active, healthy and inclusive community culture.	1.1.1 Deliver and support community events and activities.	2025-2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grant application to the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport to deliver a weekly youth programmes / activities designed to increase school attendance and decrease youth crime approved. Activities will include basketball, water, pickleball, yoga, Pilates, gymnastics, golf, martial-arts, dancing, rollerblading, skating and BMX-riding.</li> <li>Proposed Gnowangerup community recreation precinct approved by Council December 2025. Funding now being sourced.</li> <li>Community consultation to upgrade Weir Park in Ongerup commenced December 2025.</li> <li>Bloom 2025 opening event held in Ongerup Saturday 27 September.</li> <li>Wild Gravel 2025 held over the weekend 10-11 October. Over 560 participants and a further 400 volunteers and spectators.</li> </ul>
	1.1.2 Engage with community, seek opportunities to celebrate our diverse culture, aboriginal heritage and promote inclusion and connection across the district.	2025-2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A grant to document the Shire's heritage has been applied for. In part this will also be used to start the process of updating the Shire's history book.</li> <li>Shire CEO is a member of the Rec-WA working group to promote indigenous recognition.</li> <li>A project team created to support indigenous employment.</li> </ul>
	1.1.3 Advocate for and support appropriate health and medical services, community support services, facilities and programmes locally.	2025-2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting held with NDIS provider (Hireup) December 2025 to understand their services and opportunities.</li> </ul>
	1.1.4 Seek appropriate compensation for health and medical services locally.	2025-2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting held with WACH CEO 17 November 2025 and a meeting with the Minister for Health (Hon Meredith Hammat) 15 January 2026.</li> <li>The Shire is a member of the Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance. This Alliance has made a submission to the Federal Government as part of the 2026/27 Budget preparation.</li> <li>National Rural Health Alliance is advocating on our behalf. They have sent the WA Alliance report to the Australian Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and CEO WACHS.</li> </ul>

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	1.1.5 Work collaboratively to ensure our emergency services and disaster recovery arrangements are appropriate, support and encourage volunteering across the district.	2025-2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Emergency Management Committee, and Bushfire Advisory Committee meetings are held every six months.</li> <li>Bushfire volunteer training is proactively managed and volunteer bushfire training is compulsory.</li> <li>Mitigation Activity Funding (MAF) proactively managed by the Bushfire Risk Mitigation Coordinator (BRMC).</li> <li>New position (Safety and Emergency Coordinator) created to support the Community Emergency Support Manager (CESM) and Local Recovery Coordinator.</li> <li>Volunteering encouraged as part of Wild Gravel.</li> </ul>
1.2 Accessibility to all community spaces and facilities.	1.2.1 Plan for access and inclusive services and facilities across the district.	2025-2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All projects and initiatives are developed with access and inclusion in mind. For example, the Shire's annual report is now produced to allow ease of reading.</li> <li>Disability access footpath ramps upgraded at selected intersections in Yougenup Road.</li> </ul>
	1.2.2 Undertake appropriate planning to support the health and well-being of our community.	2026-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An addendum to the Shire's Public Health Plan is being developed for Council endorsement Q1 2026. This addendum is designed to reset the current initiatives to ensure these are relevant and achievable.</li> </ul>

## 2. Our Environment

### Healthy natural environment and well-maintained infrastructure for current and future generations' enjoyment

Strategy	Activities	Term	Status
2.1 Valuing our natural environment and working collaboratively to protect and enhance our natural assets.	2.1.1 Collaborate for the conservation, management and maintenance of our natural environment.	2025-2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Shire CEO is working with the Gnowangerup Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) to develop an access agreement to Cowalellup Reserve. This will help facilitate the teaching of traditional ways and preservation of the land.</li> <li>GAC Rangers assist the Bushfire Risk Management Coordinator (BRMC) in fire mitigation work helping share traditional methods of fire control.</li> </ul>
	2.1.2 Maintain our public streetscapes, showcasing our beautiful towns.	2025-2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongerup community do-over supported in August / September as part of hosting the Bloom festival. This included assisting revamp the Eldridge Street pocket park and gardens at the Town Hall.</li> </ul>
	2.1.3 Provide waste management services and facilities, meeting the needs of our community and promoting waste reduction and recycling.	2025-2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 2025/26 budget includes updating the Shire's strategic waste plan. The current plan was produced in 2012.</li> <li>Community awareness on the use of the rubbish tips promoted following the tip fire in Ongerup, October 2025.</li> </ul>
	2.1.4 Plan for water security, drought resilience and climate change risks.	2026-2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Shire is participating in a Great Southern Development initiative of developing non-potable water strategies for each Great Southern local government. This will result in the identification of current and future water needs and will include identifying shortfalls and opportunities to address gaps including alternate water supply options, infrastructure requirements, and available technology and funding opportunities.</li> </ul>
2.2 Infrastructure is well planned and maintained to support our community.	2.2.1 Plan, maintain and manage assets through effective asset management.	2025-2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit of the condition of playground equipment undertaken February 2025. This is now being actioned.</li> <li>The part time position of Asset Officer has been created in the Shire's organisational structure. This role will be considered as part of preparing the 2026/27 budget.</li> </ul>
	2.2.2 Provide appropriate road and transport network and associated infrastructure.	2025-2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 2025/26 budget includes development of a Strategic Gravel Resource Plan and undertake a Road Network Audit 10-year renewal plan.</li> <li>To improve the timeliness of road maintenance programmes the Shire's budget is now presented to Council for earlier approval. This allows road work to occur in a more timely basis.</li> </ul>

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	2.2.3 Maintain Local Planning Scheme to ensure growth is appropriately managed.	2026-2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Shire's Local Planning Strategy is being redrafted to replace the existing strategy developed in 2014 and the Amelup strategy developed in 2009. Once this is adopted by Council the Scheme will be updated.</li></ul>
	2.2.4 Protect and preserve our heritage assets.	2025-2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A grant to document the Shire's heritage has been submitted. In part this will also be used to start the process of updating the Shire's history book.</li></ul>

### 3. Local Economy

#### An innovative and diverse local economy with a strong agricultural industry

Strategy	Activities	Term	Status
3.1 Attract diverse investment in the district, strengthening local businesses to build a resilient economy.	3.1.1 Promote our region, attracting new business, industry and residents.	2025-2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joyce-air are relocating their crop spraying business to Gnowangerup. Construction of their hangar at Gnowangerup airport commenced January 2026.</li> <li>Fields &amp; Fortunes business leaders forum held 19 February 2026. This is the third year this event has been delivered by the Shire. Theme for 2026 was Smart Business, Strong Communities.</li> </ul>
3.2 Develop and advocate for essential infrastructure and services to enable and promote growth.	3.2.1 Advocate for residential and industrial land release, supporting development opportunities.	2025-2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Development WA (DevWA) has resulted in six residential blocks and six light industrial blocks being released to the market in Gnowangerup, November 2025.</li> <li>Work continues with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) to release Lot 183 Buncle Street, Ongerup. DPLH have confirmed DevWA are supportive, but a flora and fauna survey is required before approval can be granted. DPLH also advised they would like the Shire to consider relinquishing the Management Order over Reserve 49134 which is in close proximity to Lot 183.</li> </ul>
	3.2.2 Advocate for the provision of appropriate essential services and infrastructure.	2025-2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2024/25 the Shire was allocated \$1.45m as part of the Great Southern Secondary Freight Network funding to undertake work on the Borden-Bremer Bay Road.</li> <li>Work with Regional Road Group (RRG) has resulted in three road projects being listed for 2026/27, with Main Roads contributing \$530k towards the work. This compares to \$114k in 2025/26. In addition, Walsh Street in Gnowangerup has been listed in the Main Roads Western Australia Roads 2040 Strategy document as a local road of significance. Walsh Street is also a road supported by RRG for sealing with this being listed as a reserve project in 2026/27 should funding become available.</li> <li>Main Roads are supportive of the initiative to reduce the speed limit on Yougenup Road, Gnowangerup. Community consultation will take place before seeking final approval.</li> <li>NBN are installing a telecommunications tower in Gnowangerup to improve broadband services and mobile phone coverage.</li> </ul>
	3.2.3 Establish a tourism and heritage precinct in Gnowangerup.	2025-2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Application for a grant with Regional Precincts Partnerships Programme (rPPP) lodged September 2025. This application covers work associated with the Recreation Precinct in Yougenup Road, upgrades to the Gnowangerup Town Hall, repairs to footpaths leading to the mineral springs and signage, and improved signage at the Gnowangerup tourist bay.</li> </ul>

## 4. Leadership and Governance

### Providing strategic leadership and effective advocacy for the advancement of our district

Strategy	Activities	Term	Status
4.1 Effectively represent, promote and advocate for the advancement of our district.	4.1.1. Provide strategic leadership and advocate on behalf of the community.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Shire is strongly advocating for recognition of the additional burden it bears in relation to the cost of GP services. This is being undertaken via an alliance of six local governments and has included submissions and meetings with senior bureaucrats in Perth and Canberra, and government ministers. The issue was also presented to the WALGA and ALGA AGMs with it being supported in both instances.</li> </ul>
	4.1.2 Foster strong community connections through inclusive engagement and meaningful communication.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council endorsed the Shire's new Purpose (Mission) in 2025. The Purpose is now <i>Connecting Community</i>, this being achieved by fostering community engagement and a sense of belonging. This purpose drives and supports Council's actions.</li> <li>The Shire hosts Dandjoo Day, an event where volunteers are recognised and their achievements celebrated. This event was first held in 2025 and is planned again for March 2026.</li> <li>The Shire produces a monthly newsletter which includes updates from the Shire President and CEO. This initiative commenced in 2023.</li> <li>Regular community consultation is undertaken when initiatives that may impact the community are being considered. For example, closure of a portion of Alymore Street, creation of a Recreation Precinct in Gnowangerup, upgrade of Weir Park in Ongerup, change of speed limits in Yougenup Road, and development of the Shire's Council Plan 2025-2035.</li> </ul>
4.2 An efficient and effective organisation, providing appropriate services to our community.	4.2.1 Provide services aligned with our community requirements.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The strong message that came from the community when developing the Council Plan 2025-2035 was to continue to support the community, have events, and maintain medical services. Areas requiring improvement included gravel road maintenance, releasing more land and better streetscapes. Fulfilling these needs can be seen in the CEOs KPIs.</li> <li>There is a concerted focus on rebuilding the depot team. Given the shortage of housing this has required a more creative approach which should see improved change in 2026.</li> </ul>
	4.2.2 Ensure strong financial management through effective planning.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Shire has appointed two independent members to its Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.</li> <li>There is focus on producing the annual budget and statutory accounts sooner. Earlier completion of these documents provides more time to execute initiatives.</li> </ul>
	4.2.3 Provide a safe and positive workplace, supporting development and growth.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus is on culture which is underpinned by the Shire's values. These were refreshed in 2025 and now comprise Safety, Tenacity, Integrity and Collaboration.</li> <li>The position of HR and Contracts Manager was created in 2025. This has improved organisational bench strength.</li> <li>The position of Safety and Emergency Coordinator was created in 2025. This role is focused on staff safety, as well as community safety in times of emergency.</li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Annual Staff Performance Review has been retitled to Annual Staff Development Review. This supports a culture of continuous improvement and opportunity.</li></ul>