

Chittering 2036 Our Place, Our Future

Council Plan 2026-2036





Acknowledgment of Country

The Shire of Chittering wishes to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land within the Shire of Chittering, the Yued and Whadjuk peoples. We would like to pay respect to the Elders of the Nyoongar nation, past and present, who have walked and cared for the land. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture, and the contributions made to this region.

ACCESSING OUR COUNCIL PLAN



Available online at:

www.chittering.wa.gov.au

Hard copies available at:

- Administration Office
- Bindoon Library

ALTERNATIVE FORMATS



Available on request, including:

- Other languages
- Accessible formats



(08) 9576 4600 or

chatter@chittering.wa.gov.au

FEEDBACK AND QUESTIONS



We welcome your feedback.

chatter@chittering.wa.gov.au

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Message from the President



The Council Plan 2026–2036 represents our community's vision for the future of the Shire of Chittering. It is a reflection of what our residents value, the opportunities they see for our district, and the legacy they want to leave for future generations.

The development of this Plan has been shaped by extensive engagement with our community. Through surveys, workshops, events and conversations, people shared what they love about Chittering and what they want to see protected and strengthened over the next decade.

A consistent message emerged throughout the engagement process. Our community values the Shire's rural character, strong sense of belonging and close-knit communities. They want to see local businesses and agriculture continue to thrive, our natural environment protected, and our towns and localities planned carefully to support future growth without losing the qualities that make Chittering unique.

Our district is entering an important period of change. The future Bindoon Bypass, population growth and changing community needs will create new opportunities and new challenges. This Plan recognises that growth must be managed responsibly, ensuring that investment in roads, community infrastructure, recreation, tourism and essential services keeps pace with the future.

The vision that sits at the heart of this Plan: **"A community that values its people, supports local growth and protects our rural character"**, reflects the aspirations of our community and will guide Council's decisions over the next ten years.

On behalf of Council, I sincerely thank everyone who contributed to the development of this Plan. Your ideas and aspirations have helped create a shared direction for the future, and together we will continue building a resilient, connected and prosperous Chittering.

David Dewar
Shire President

Message from the CEO

The Council Plan establishes the long-term direction for the Shire and provides the foundation for how the organisation will plan, invest and deliver services over the next decade.

At its core, this Plan is about preparing Chittering for the future. It recognises the opportunities associated with growth while acknowledging the importance of protecting the rural lifestyle, landscapes and community spirit that define our district.

The priorities identified through community engagement will guide future investment in infrastructure, recreation, local planning, environmental management, economic development and community wellbeing. They will also shape how the organisation plans for future service delivery, workforce capability and financial sustainability.

As our communities evolve, the Shire must continue to balance growth with affordability, advocacy with delivery, and long-term planning with the everyday services our community relies upon.

This Council Plan provides the strategic direction for that work. It establishes the framework for Council's four-year Corporate Business Plan and the Annual Implementation Plans that will progressively deliver these priorities.

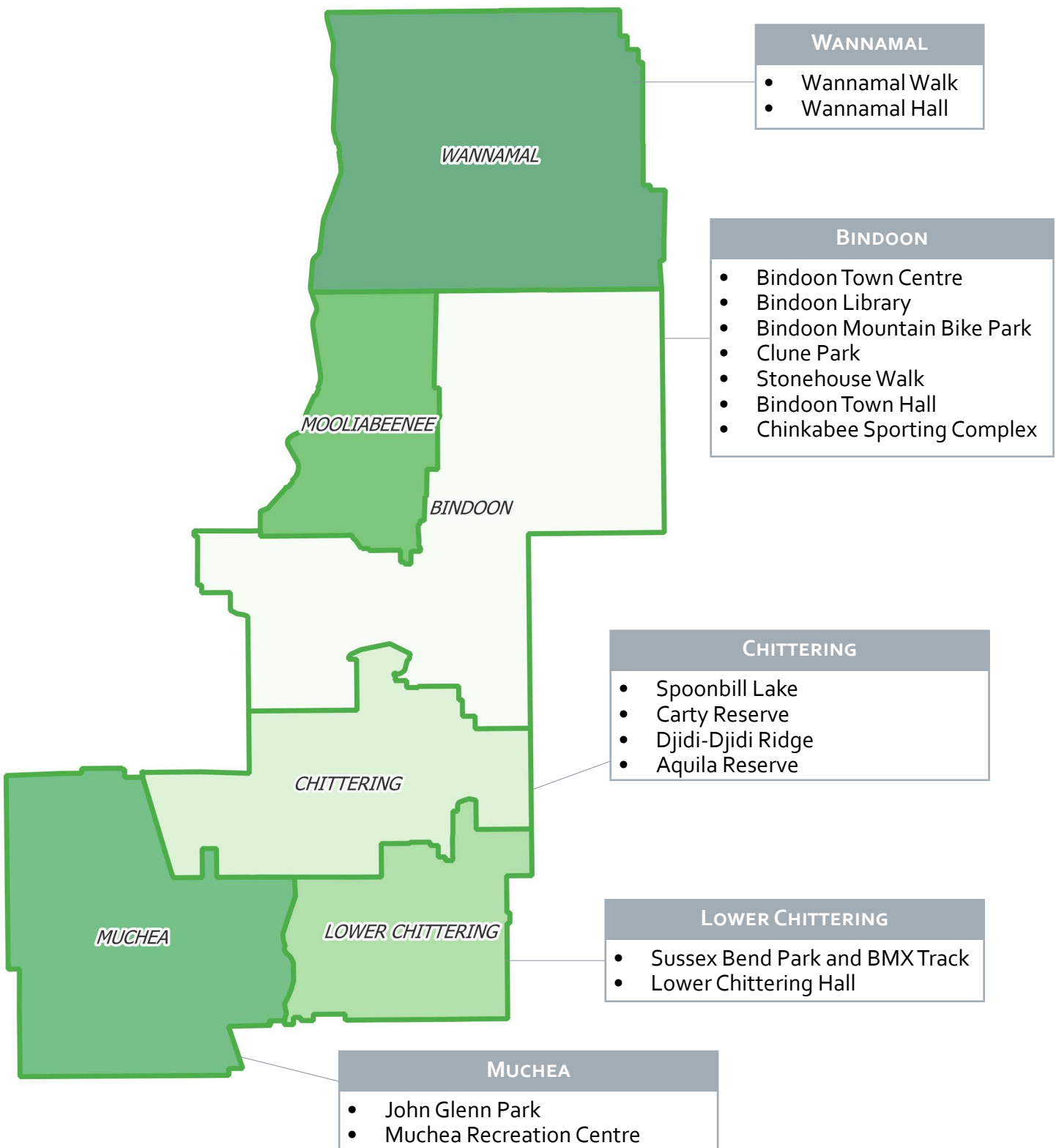
I would like to acknowledge the contribution of our community, Councillors and staff in developing this Plan. Together, we have established a clear direction that will help ensure Chittering remains a great place to live, work, invest and visit.



Melinda Prinsloo
Shire CEO

Shire Snapshot

A large rural district made up of distinct communities, connected landscape, lifestyle and local identity.





With a growing population, diverse local businesses and over 230 kilometres of sealed roads connecting communities, the Shire continues to evolve while maintaining its rural character and strong community connections.

OUR PLACE



1,222km²
of area within the shire



230km
of sealed roads



5.53
persons per km²

OUR COMMUNITY



7,039
residents



2,413
dwellings



35%
couples with children

OUR ECONOMY



714
active businesses



62%
employed full time



35%
employed part time

OUR FUTURE



12.2%
population forecast growth
by 2036

Growth is expected to continue as more seek a rural lifestyle.

Federal, State and Regional Context

HOW OTHER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT INFLUENCE CHITTERING

The Shire of Chittering doesn't plan in isolation. Decisions made by State and Federal governments, along with regional partnerships, all play a role in shaping our future.

At a **Federal level**, the Australian Government helps shape big-picture issues like housing, infrastructure and climate resilience. National housing reforms aim to increase supply and improve affordability, while Federal funding supports roads, community infrastructure and regional development. National commitments to climate action and disaster resilience also support how we prepare for bushfires and protect our community.

At a **State level**, the Western Australian Government sets the rules and direction for local government. This includes laws about how councils operate, as well as strategies that guide housing, planning and infrastructure. Changes to the Local Government Act will affect how Council works with the community, while State housing and planning strategies are helping to shape how our towns grow. The State also leads long-term planning for infrastructure and climate action, which supports how we prepare for growth and environmental challenges.

At a **regional level**, Chittering is part of the northern Wheatbelt and sits close to Perth's growing outskirts. This means more people are looking to live in rural areas like ours. We work closely with neighbouring councils such as Gingin and Toodyay to manage shared challenges like roads, emergency services and regional development. Our economy is closely linked to agriculture, tourism and local businesses, and working together regionally helps us attract funding and investment.

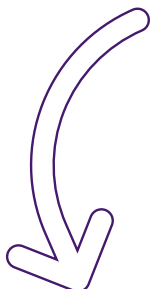
By working within these broader frameworks, the Shire can plan for the future, respond to change and continue making Chittering a better place to live.





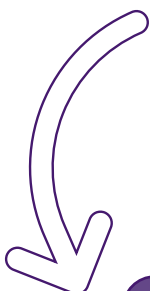
FEDERAL LEVEL

- HOUSING
- CLIMATE
- INFRASTRUCTURE
- NATIONAL POLICY



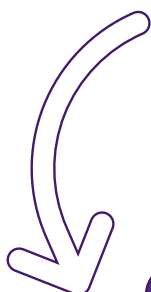
STATE LEVEL

- LAW
- PLANNING
- HOUSING
- INFRASTRUCTURE
- CLIMATE



SHIRE OF CHITTERING

- LOCAL PLANNING
- COMMUNITY SERVICES
- SERVICE DELIVERY



REGIONAL LEVEL

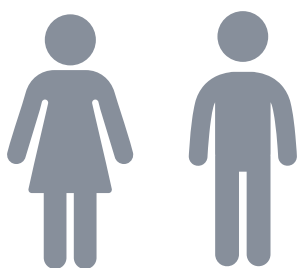
- NORTHERN WHEATBELT
- GROWTH
- LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS
- LOCAL ECONOMY

How our Community Shaped this Plan

We set out in 2025 to hear from as many of you as we could during our engagement process in 2025. This process reflects the biggest community engagement process the Shire has ever embarked on in its history.

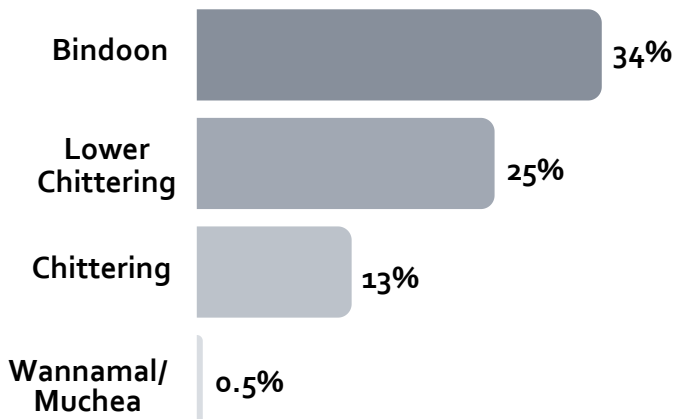
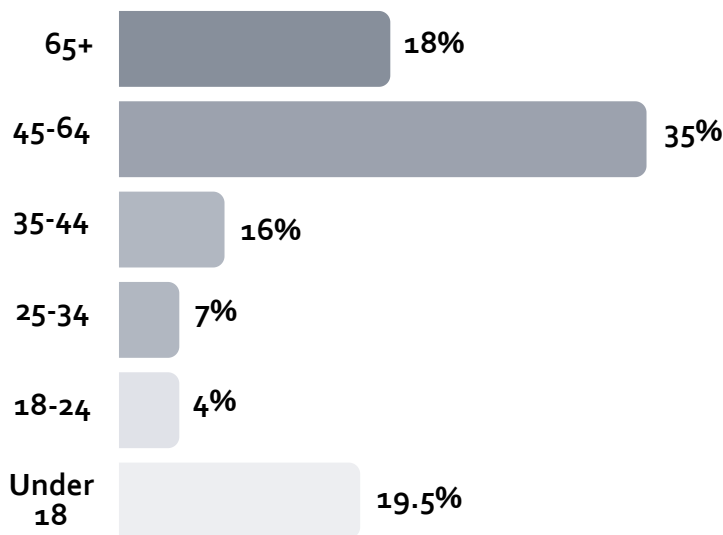


WHO WE HEARD FROM

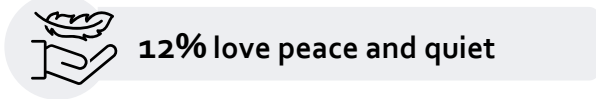
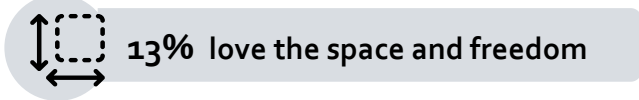


60% female 40% male

Age group of respondents



What people value most



Vision, Mission and Outcomes

WHY IS A COMMUNITY PLAN IMPORTANT?

This is a legislative document and a requirement of all local governments in Western Australia. It is a key tool in helping us plan the Shires priorities for the next 10 years.

VISION

“A community that values its people, supports local growth, and protects our rural character”

MISSION

To plan, lead and deliver services and infrastructure that support livability, resilience and opportunity for the Chittering community.

OUTCOMES



COMMUNITIES CONNECTED

An enriched community life that reflects the diverse identities of the different areas that make up the Shire



RURAL WAY OF LIFE

A safe and well-cared-for rural environment that values its natural and built character and provides access to essential services and facilities.



THRIVING

A thoughtfully planned Shire where our community is supported to grow and thrive through future-ready development that respects rural character.



Communities Connected



An enriched community life that reflects the diverse identities of the different areas that make up the Shire.

WHY THIS OUTCOME MATTERS

Community feedback showed people value feeling informed, involved and supported, particularly during times of change.

As Chittering grows, there will be more pressure on volunteers, community facilities and emergency services. Council plays a key role in supporting connection, preparedness and clear communication so communities feel confident about the future.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. Work with the community on matters that are important to them.
2. Support strong local clubs, groups and recreational opportunities for participation.
3. Advocate for and support communities to prepare for emergencies and local risks.
4. Engage, educate and collaborate with the community to support celebration, events and shared experiences.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Community concern regarding regional development and change
- Increasing demand on volunteers and emergency services
- Maintaining trust through clear communication and engagement
- Ensuring residents remain informed, prepared and supported



Rural Way of Life



A safe and well-cared-for rural environment that values its natural and built character and provides access to essential services and facilities.

WHY THIS OUTCOME MATTERS

Community feedback highlighted the importance of safe roads, reliable infrastructure and protecting Chittering's rural lifestyle.

As regional activity and growth increase, Council's role is to plan ahead, advocate for appropriate investment and work with other levels of government to manage impacts while protecting rural amenity and community safety.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. Advocate for improved investment and maintenance in roads and paths.
2. Preserve and celebrate our natural places, trails, reserves and rural history.
3. Preserve the rural lifestyle by ensuring infrastructure meets current and future community needs.
4. Advocate for subdivision and infill development that respects and retains the Shire's rural character.
5. Advocate for improved connectivity within the Shire, including public and community transport options.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Increased traffic and heavy vehicle movements on rural roads
- Infrastructure wear associated with regional freight corridors
- Protecting rural landscapes, water resources and environmental values
- Maintaining rural amenity as the region grows



Thriving



A thoughtfully planned Shire where our community is supported to grow and thrive through future-ready development that respects rural character.

WHY THIS OUTCOME MATTERS

Through community engagement, residents told us they value local jobs, careful growth and the protecting Chittering's rural character.

Over the next 10 years, the Shire will experience change driven by population growth, regional economic activity and increasing infrastructure demand. Council's role is to guide this change so it benefits the community while remaining financially sustainable and rural identity.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. Plan for future-ready growth that reflects the unique character of Chittering's communities.
2. Advocate for, retain and attract local business and employment opportunities suited to a rural Shire.
3. Grow local tourism in a way that builds on Chittering's natural, cultural and community strengths.
4. Ensure responsible stewardship of Shire resources and long-term financial sustainability.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Managing growth in appropriate locations and at a pace aligned with infrastructure capacity
- Regional economic changes affecting local employment and housing
- Ensuring local businesses benefit from regional investment and supply opportunities
- Balancing growth, service delivery and asset renewal within long-term financial capacity

Planning, Measurement & Resourcing the Plan

PLANNING

Planning helps us make sure we are delivering the right services, at the right time, for our community.

Each year, we carefully plan our budget to balance community needs, maintain services and keep rates as affordable as possible.

We use a number of key plans to guide our work:

- The Corporate Business Plan outlines our priorities and what we will focus on over the next four years.
- The Annual Implementation Plan sets out what will be delivered each year through the annual budget.
- Supporting plans, such as our Long-Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Plans, explain how we will fund, maintain and improve services and infrastructure over time.

Together, these plans help us make informed, responsible decisions that reflect community priorities.

MEASUREMENT

We regularly review this plan to make sure it continues to reflect our community's needs.

A minor review is completed every two years, with a full review every four years, in line with the Local Government Act 1995.

We will keep our community informed and involved along the way through:

- Our website
- Newsletters and social media
- Local businesses and community groups

RESOURCING THE PLAN

Each year, Council adopts a budget that directs funding towards the priorities identified in this plan.

We carefully manage resources to ensure services are delivered efficiently and sustainably.

We also work with State and Federal Governments to secure additional funding, helping us deliver important infrastructure and projects for our growing community.





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