



SHIRE OF  
**MANJIMUP**

SHIRE OF MANJIMUP

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023 / 2024

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## ***ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY***

*The Shire of Manjimup respectfully acknowledges the Noongar people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands in which we work throughout the region, and we pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.*



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## ***OUR COMMUNITY VISION***

*We are a thriving region offering an excellent quality of life that is safe, liveable and welcoming.*

*We value and care for our natural environment, which sustains both economic and recreational pursuits.*

*Our industries are recognised for their resilience, quality and innovation and for their contribution to the state of Western Australia.*

*Our economic diversity provides business and employment opportunities for all.*

# A MESSAGE FROM THE SHIRE PRESIDENT AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

We are proud to present the 2023/24 Annual Report for the Shire of Manjimup to our community. This year has been one of significant transformation, marked by changes in leadership and a renewed focus on our Shire's core priorities.

As we step into our roles as Shire President and Chief Executive Officer, our shared vision has been clear; to refocus on the Shire's essential services, infrastructure, and community needs. This commitment ensures stability, quality, and a solid foundation for the community we serve.

In this period of transition, we have concentrated on realigning our resources, enhancing operational efficiency, and sharpening our focus on what matters most to our community. This 'back-to-basics' approach, following years of substantial capital investment, reflects a responsible and strategic direction that prioritises services that directly impact daily life in our Shire.

While our primary focus has been on core services and strengthening the Shire's foundations, we remain committed to progressing existing key community projects that align with our long-term vision. Ongoing development initiatives, such as the Pemberton Community Hub Balang Miya, the Manjimup Rea Park and Collier Street Redevelopment, and the Manjimup Trail Bike Hub reflect our dedication to improving infrastructure and capitalising on opportunities that benefit our residents. These projects, supported by significant grant funding, highlight our collective effort to create enhanced facilities and provide lasting value to the community.

A key focus this year has been on fostering stronger connections with our residents. Through initiatives such as online streaming of Council meetings, we have enhanced transparency and accessibility, giving the community greater insight into the decision-making processes that shape our Shire.

Additionally, the Shire President's monthly visits to towns across the Shire have been a highlight, offering invaluable opportunities to meet residents, listen to their concerns, and better understand the diverse needs of our communities.

We also recognise the profound impact of the cessation of commercial logging in native forests on our communities. However, it has been heartening to witness the resilience and innovation of local businesses and community groups, supported by state government investment, as they adapt to these changes.

As we move forward, we remain committed to positive transformation. With a focus on core business, sustainability, and responsiveness, we are confident that our Shire is well-positioned for a prosperous future.

We extend our gratitude to our dedicated staff and Elected Members for their hard work and commitment. And to those staff and Elected Members who completed their service earlier this year, thank you for your valuable contributions to our Shire.

Finally, we thank you - our community - for your trust and support during this time of change. Together, we will continue to strengthen the Shire of Manjimup, building a foundation for lasting growth and a thriving future.

Warm regards,



**Donelle Buegge**  
Shire President



**Benjamin (Ben) Rose**  
Chief Executive Officer





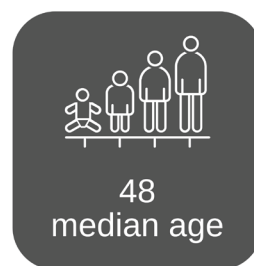
# COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

The Shire of Manjimup is home to a range of unique towns and settlements, each contributing to the character and charm of the region.

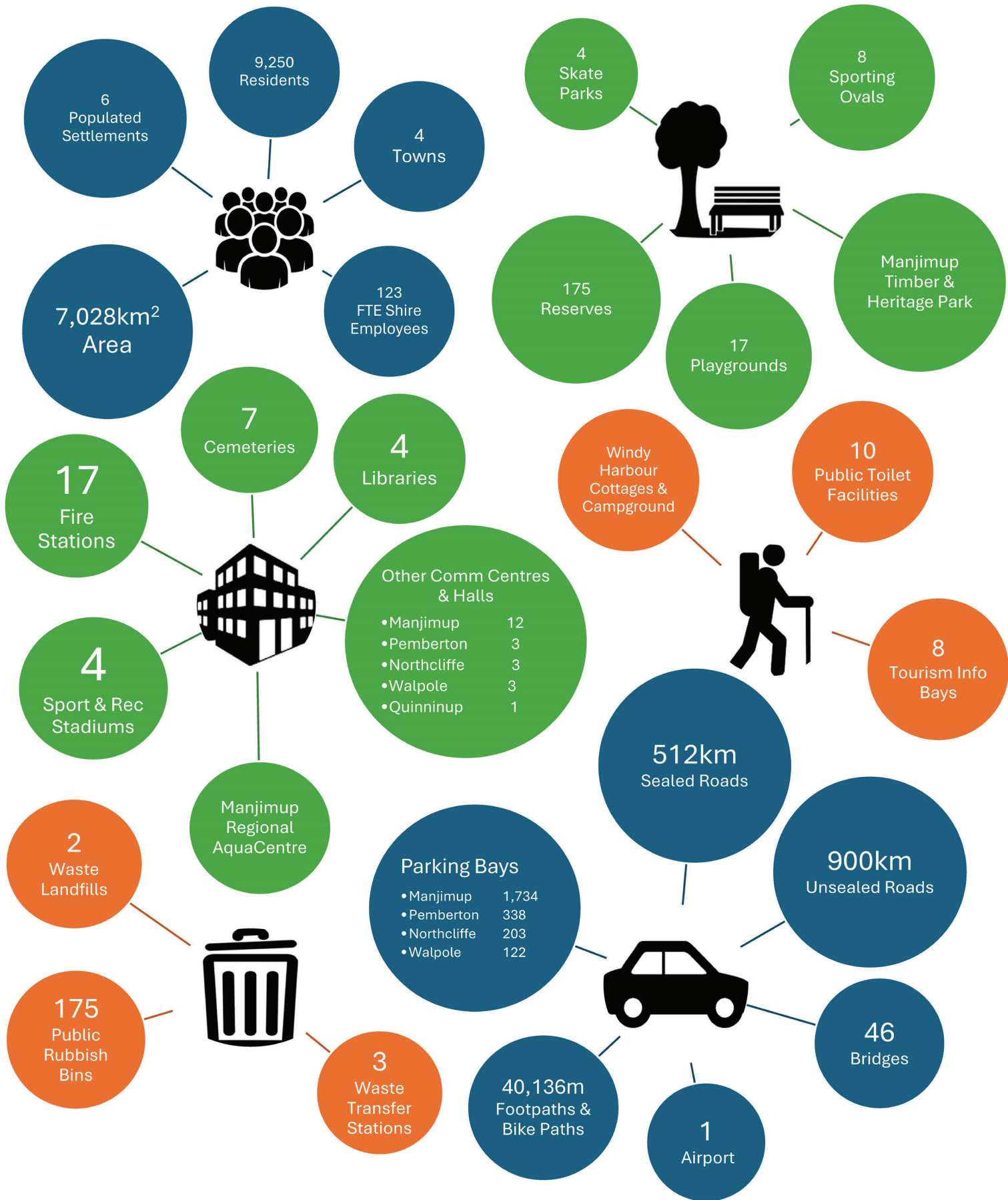
Each town in the Shire offers something distinct. Manjimup serves as the central hub, with a strong heritage in agriculture and timber, and a vibrant calendar of sporting and community events. Pemberton, surrounded by scenic forests, is known for its focus on recreation and tourism. Northcliffe is a close-knit community with a strong connection to its natural surroundings and the arts, while Walpole, a picturesque coastal town, balances outdoor pursuits with a relaxed lifestyle. Quinninup offers a peaceful forest setting with a strong sense of community pride.

Together, these communities make the Shire of Manjimup a diverse and inviting place to live, work, and visit, united by a shared appreciation for the region's beauty and a strong sense of community.

## Our Community Profile



# Community Asset Snapshot





## OUR COUNCIL

In 2022/23, the State Government introduced significant reforms to local government elections and representation through amendments to the *Local Government Act 1995*.

These changes included:

- The introduction of optional preferential voting.
- Directly elected Mayors and Presidents for band 1 and 2 local governments.
- Councillor numbers based on population.
- The removal of wards for band 3 and 4 local governments.

As a band 2 local government, the Shire of Manjimup chose the 'voluntary pathway' to implement these reforms. This process involved a comprehensive Ward and Representative Review, which included public consultation.

Prior to the reforms, the Shire of Manjimup Council consisted of eleven Councillors, including a Shire President elected by the Council, representing six wards. As a result of the reforms and the related Review, a new Council structure was adopted, which came into effect at the October 2023 local government election. The new Council structure now comprises eight elected members representing two wards (Urban and Rural), alongside a Shire President directly elected by residents.

Throughout the financial year, Council meetings were generally held every three weeks on Thursday evenings, although occasionally the schedule deviated from this three-week cycle. A total of 18 Council meetings, comprising 15 ordinary meetings and 3 special meetings, were held in 2023/24. One ordinary meeting was hosted in each of the towns of Pemberton, Northcliffe, and Walpole.



## Elected Members (as of October 2023)

### URBAN WARD



SHIRE PRESIDENT  
**Donelle Buegge**

*Term expiry 2027*



DEPUTY SHIRE PRESIDENT  
**Steve Miolin**

*Term expiry 2027*



COUNCILLOR  
**Jayde Darin**

*Term expiry 2027*



COUNCILLOR  
**Wade De Campo**

*Term expiry 2025*



COUNCILLOR  
**Hon. Paul Omodei**

*Term expiry 2025*

### RURAL WARD



COUNCILLOR  
**Wendy Eiby**

*Term expiry 2025*



COUNCILLOR  
**Murray Ventris**

*Term expiry 2025*



COUNCILLOR  
**Jennifer Willcox**

*Term expiry 2025*



COUNCILLOR  
**Cliff Winfield**

*Term expiry 2025*

Councillors whose terms ended in October 2023:

Cr. Susan Dawson Vidovich  
Cr. Denise Jenkins  
Cr. Ken Lawrence  
Cr. Kim Skoss  
Cr. Robert Taylor

### Elected Member Remuneration

In accordance with the Shire of Manjimup 2023/24 Annual Budget, the following allowances and fees were applicable to Elected Members:

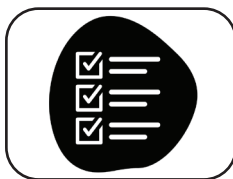
- Shire President Allowance: \$40,957
- Deputy Shire President Allowance: \$10,239
- Shire President Attendance Fee: \$23,940
- Councillor Attendance Fee: \$19,820
- Allowance for ICT Expenses: \$2,000
- Travel and accommodation expenses

Full details of the actual allowances and fees paid can be found on page 31 of the 2023/24 Annual Financial Report.

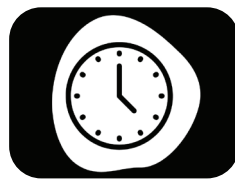
### Council Statistics



326 items considered by Council



148 items passed enbloc



Average meeting duration of 1 hour and 23 minutes



10 confidential items considered by Council



96.8% of items passed without substantial change to recommendation

## Council and Committee Meeting Attendance

The number of Council and Committee meetings attended by each Elected Member during 2023/24 is as follows:

Meeting Type	No of meetings	From October 2023								
		Cr. D Buegge	Cr. P Omodei	Cr. W Eiby	Cr. M Ventris	Cr. J Willcox	Cr. C Winfield	Cr. S Miolin	Cr. J Darin	Cr. W De Campo
<b>Council Meetings</b>		<b>18 / 18</b>	<b>18 / 18</b>	<b>17 / 18</b>	<b>17 / 18</b>	<b>17 / 18</b>	<b>17 / 18</b>	<b>12 / 12</b>	<b>11 / 12</b>	<b>10 / 12</b>
Access & Inclusion	4	1		2					1	
Airfield Management	5			1			4			
Audit & Risk Management	2	2	2		1				2	
Bushfire	2	2					1			
CEO Review	1	1						1		1
Community Funds Program	1	1	1	1	1				1	
Local Emergency Management	2	2						1		
Manjimup Heritage Park	3	1		1						
Manjimup Recreation	2	1								
Manjimup Town Activation	2	2								
Northcliffe Forest Park	2			2						
Northcliffe Town Activation	1			1						
Northcliffe Town Hall	1			1						
Pemberton Community Hub	3		2		2					
Pemberton Town Activation	3				2					
Plant Replacement	2	2	2		2			2		1
Rea Park & Collier Street	6	1	2				1			
Reconciliation Action Plan	3	1		1			2			
Road Infrastructure	3	3	3	3	3			3	1	2
Sustainability	3	1		3			1			2
Walpole Town Activation	1					1				
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>

Meeting Type	No of meetings	Up to October 2023				
		Cr. S Dawson Vidovich	Cr. D Jenkins	Cr. K Lawrence	Cr. K Skoss	Cr. R Taylor
<b>Council Meetings</b>		<b>4/6</b>	<b>5/6</b>	<b>6/6</b>	<b>6/6</b>	<b>5/6</b>
Access & Inclusion	4				1	
Airfield Management	5					
Audit & Risk Management	2					
Bushfire	2				1	
CEO Review	1					
Community Funds Program	1					
Local Emergency Management	2					
Manjimup Heritage Park	3					
Manjimup Recreation	2					
Manjimup Town Activation	2					
Northcliffe Forest Park	2					
Northcliffe Town Activation	1					
Northcliffe Town Hall	1					
Pemberton Community Hub	3			1		
Pemberton Town Activation	3			1		
Plant Replacement	2					
Rea Park & Collier Street	6	2	2			
Reconciliation Action Plan	3					
Road Infrastructure	3					
Sustainability	3					
Walpole Town Activation	1					
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>





# OUR ORGANISATION

The Shire of Manjimup is a professional and community-focused organisation dedicated to promoting good governance and supporting the community's shared vision. We deliver a range of services and facilities, manage legislative responsibilities, and develop policies that benefit the Shire.

Our focus is on ensuring the Shire remains a great place to live, work, and visit. We are committed to supporting the community's wellbeing, fostering economic growth, and planning for a sustainable future.

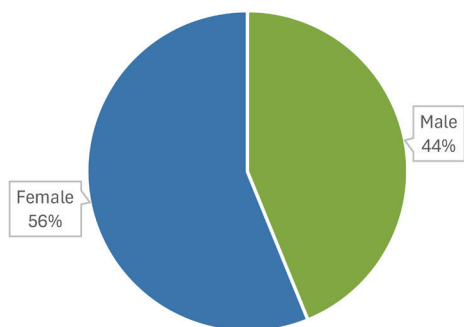
## Organisational Structure



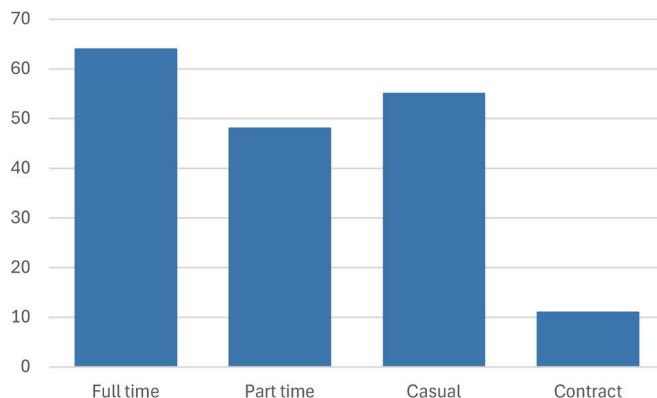
## Workplace Demographics

The Shire employed a total of 178 people in 2023/24. The following graphs provide a detailed overview of the Shire’s workforce demographics, highlighting key metrics such as gender distribution, employment type, length of service, and age profile.

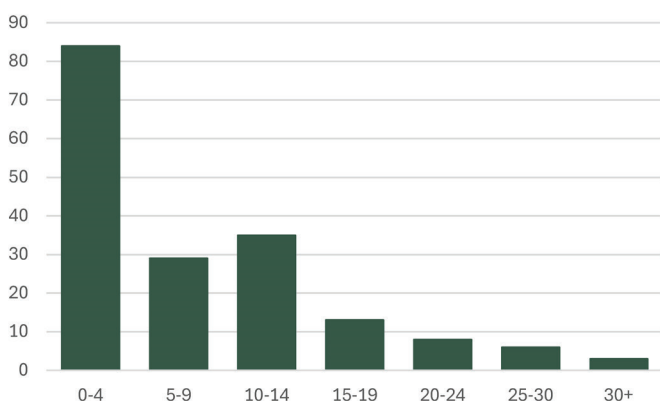
Gender Distribution



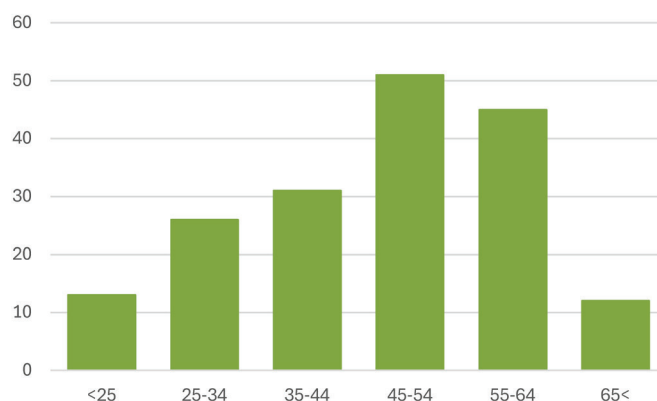
Employment Type



Length of Service (years)



Age Distribution



## Employee and CEO Remuneration

Regulation 19B(2) of the Local Government Act (Administration) Regulations 1996 requires the Shire to report the number of employees that are entitled to an annual salary of \$130,000 or more. This information is provided in the table to the below.

Band	No. of employees
\$130,000 - \$140,000	3
\$140,000 - \$150,000	2
\$150,000 - \$160,000	2
\$160,000 - \$170,000	1

The total remuneration package provided to the Chief Executive Officer as at 30 June 2024 was \$336,771 (annualised).

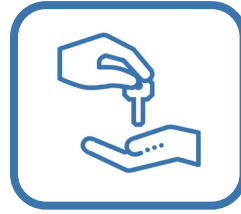
# SERVICE *snapshot* DELIVERY



1,702  
invoices  
raised



5,709  
rates notices  
issued



45  
lease managed  
properties (not-for-profit)



14  
lease managed  
properties (commercial)



16,975  
incoming  
records



6,848  
outgoing  
records



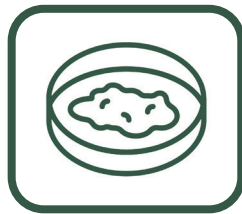
106  
cheques  
received



66  
environmental health  
investigations



65  
food business  
inspections



21  
food  
samples



131  
drinking water  
samples



34  
lodging house  
inspections



1,055  
bushfire  
volunteers



66  
fire  
callouts



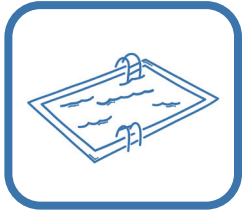
1,204  
bushfire  
inspections



1,110  
ranger incident  
investigations

# COMMUNITY SERVICES

## AT A GLANCE



51,516  
AquaCentre  
visitors



27,280  
Library  
visitors



4,800  
Power Up  
Museum visitors



457  
Indoor Sports  
Pavilion bookings



43  
Shire approved  
events



29  
school awards to  
11 schools



196  
incorporated  
associations



12  
donations made  
to the community



24  
Citizen of the  
Year nominees



956  
swimming lesson  
enrolments



5,448  
group fitness entries  
at MRAC



189  
interlibrary  
loans



45,489  
physical library  
checkouts



19,960  
digital library  
checkouts



265  
new library  
members



179  
library activities  
held

# OUR BUSINESS



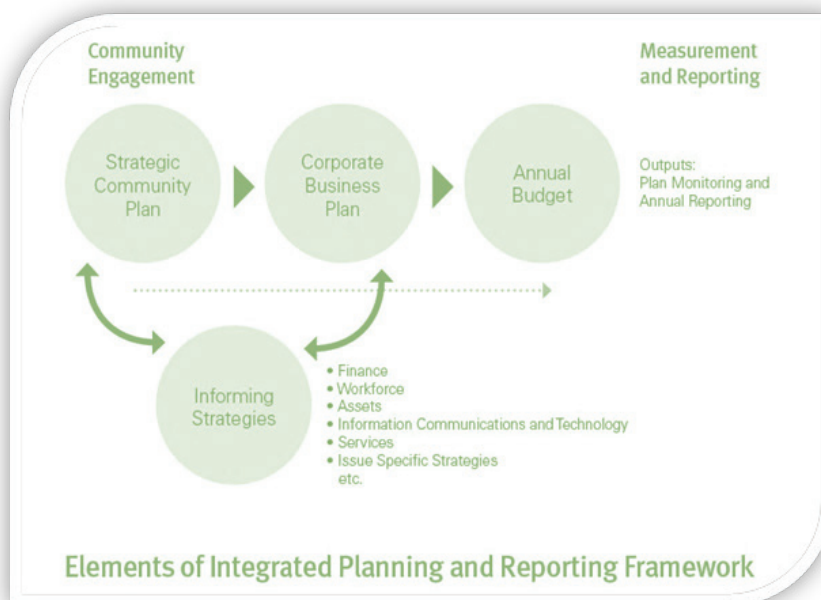


Under the *Local Government Act 1995 (WA)*, all local governments must strategically plan for the future of their districts, guided by the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*. The Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, provided by the Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries, sets the foundation for effective strategic planning.

## Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

The Framework comprises five key elements:

- Strategic Community Plan (10 years): Defines long-term community-driven goals and strategies with a “whole of Shire” approach. The Shire of Manjimup Strategic Community Plan was last updated in 2021.
- Corporate Business Plan (4 years): Details actions to achieve the goals of the Strategic Community Plan. The Shire of Manjimup Corporate Business Plan was last updated in June 2023.
- Informing Strategies: Supports the local government to deliver the Corporate Business Plan through key informing documents including the Long Term Financial Plan, Asset Management Plan, Workforce Plan, and other specialised plans (e.g., Road Construction Plan, Sports & Recreation Strategic Plan).
- Annual Budget: Allocates resources to implement the Corporate Business Plan and Strategic Community Plan.
- Annual Report (this document): Offers the community an update on the Shire’s progress in implementing the Corporate Business Plan and highlights how the community is advancing towards the goals outlined in the Strategic Community Plan.



## Shire of Manjimup Achievements

The following pages highlight the Shire’s key achievements for the 2023/24 financial year, aligning with the themes and community goals set out in the Strategic Community Plan and Corporate Business Plan.

# OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

## Community Goals

1.1 Natural landscapes, habitats and resources are sustainably managed for the benefit of existing and future generations.

1.2 Development is managed sustainably and our environment is valued through policy and regulation.

1.3 Our region is recognised for its iconic, world-class natural environment that can be enjoyed by all.

1.4 Potential climate change impacts are anticipated and responded to.

1.5 Waste management strategies are expanded and a greater range of options provided to ensure we minimise the negative impacts on our environment.

## Key Achievements

### Windy Harbour Coastal Risk Management Plan

The Windy Harbour Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaption Plan (CHRMAP) will inform the community and stakeholders about potential coastal hazard risks to key coastal infrastructure and assets and identify community and stakeholders' values during the process. Windy Harbour was identified as a coastal erosion hotspot in 2019 due to potential sea level rise and expected increases in storm activity.

The CHRMAP is partially funded by the Western Australian Planning Commission and Department of Transport to identify coastal hazards, analyse risks and prioritise management and adaptation responses through an implementation plan.

The CHRMAP Chapters 1 – 6 have been completed which includes community consultation.

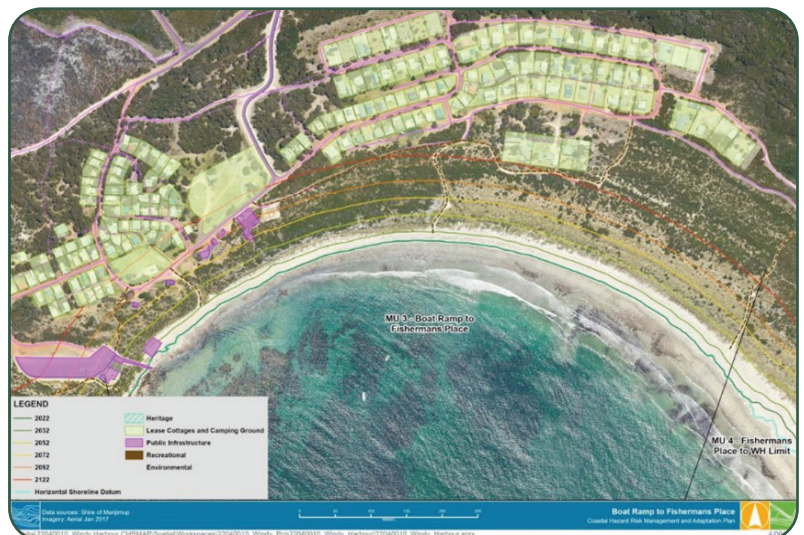


Image: Draft Windy Harbour CHRMAP erosion lines and infrastructure.

### Continuous Achievements

- Ongoing Gold Status Waterwise Accreditation at Manjimup Regional AquaCentre.
- Ongoing advice to event organisers to not use single use plastics.
- Provision of free water station for all community events upon request.

## Weed Management

The Planning Services team have been undertaking activities and projects that improve weed management on Shire managed land, subsequently lessening the weed burden on all land managers.

The following projects are helping achieve the goals of the Shire in improving weed management.

### WALGA Biodiversity Projects

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Local Biodiversity and Native Vegetation Management Projects are funded by the State NRM Program. The Shire of Manjimup Road Reserve Conservation Values Assessment and Report, and Shire of Manjimup Biodiversity Assessments include weed mapping and recommendations to better manage land for better environmental outcomes.

*Image (right): Harrington's Spider Orchid (*Caladenia arringtoniae*) a Threatened species under threat from weeds in road reserves photographed during the project.*



*Image (above): Manjimup Senior High School Bush Cadets undertaking invasive weed control at Windy Harbour.*

### State Natural Resource Management Grant 2024 - 2026

The 'Empowering Community in Managing Threatened Species Habitat' grant will enable dune restoration, intensive weed management, threatened species monitoring and educational activities at Windy Harbour.

Community involvement is essential in these types of projects. For example, the Friends of Windy Harbour Group and the Manjimup Weed Action Group have supplied volunteers, technical advice and equipment.

#### **In Brief**

The Parks Team undertook the following weed management tasks:

- Extensive Blackberry control across all town sites.
- A targeted removal campaign of the environmental weed *Acacia longifolia* in Northcliffe along Windy Harbour Road and in Manjimup at the Deanmill Heritage Trail, Allambie Park, and Linear Path.
- The removal of *Genista monspessulana* in Allambie Park.

In addition, the Works Team carried out an extensive program of weed control focused on Blackberry removal in 43 sites across 40 rural roads.

## Bushfire Mitigation Efforts

The Shire of Manjimup is making significant strides in reducing bushfire risks through proactive planning and investment. With a Council Budget allocation of \$75,000 and a \$233,920 grant from the Mitigation Activity Fund, the Shire has implemented key measures to protect the community and environment.

These initiatives include maintaining and constructing firebreaks, building fire service access routes, establishing low-fuel buffers around townsites and settlements, and undertaking planned burns on Shire-managed reserves.

In the 2023–2024 period, forty three separate treatments were funded under the Mitigation Activity Fund. Additionally, the Shire completed all maintenance prescribed in the Fuel Hazard Reduction Plan 2000–2025, ensuring ongoing preparedness and vigilance. These efforts underline the Shire’s dedication to reducing bushfire risks and safeguarding its residents and natural surroundings.



### In Brief

- The Rea Park and Collier Street Redevelopment includes the installation of LED playing field lighting as well as incorporating environmental considerations into project planning (eg. flora and fauna surveys, tree assessments).
- The Manjimup Trail Bike Hub route development takes Disease Risk Areas into account, and the newly developed website offers rider education on reducing environmental impact.
- The Shire hosted, and presented at, the South West WALGA Workshop on Roadside Vegetation Management.



## Powering Ahead with Solar Energy

The Shire has taken a significant step towards sustainability by installing Solar PV Systems on two of its largest energy-consuming buildings. The Shire Administration building now operates with a 39kWp solar system, while the Manjimup Depot has been fitted with a 26kWp system.

Both systems are performing at 100% capacity, delivering substantial cost savings and a notable reduction in CO2 emissions. These upgrades not only reflect the Shire's commitment to environmental responsibility but also represent a sound financial investment, with an anticipated payback period of just four years.

By embracing renewable energy, the Shire is leading the way in reducing its carbon footprint while promoting long-term economic and environmental benefits for the community.



*Solar panels on the Shire Administration Building and Shire Depot roof*

## Waste Management

### Overview

The Shire of Manjimup operates a licensed landfill and controlled liquid waste facility at the Manjimup Recycling and Refuse Centre (MRRC) and three registered transfer stations (Northcliffe, Pemberton and Walpole). Each of these sites is managed by an independent contractor. A small, registered refuse pit at Windy Harbour is operated by the settlement Caretaker. The Shire's waste facilities are complemented by an extensive kerbside collection service and an annual vergeside hard waste collection.

### High Traveller Waste

After a one-year trial through 2022/23, Council permanently discontinued the provision of holiday period bulk waste bins at various locations around the Shire. The resulting significant decrease in illegal dumping of domestic and commercial waste at highway stops during holiday periods continued through 2023/24 with no detected instances of dumping at the locations where bulk waste bins had previously been provided during holiday periods.

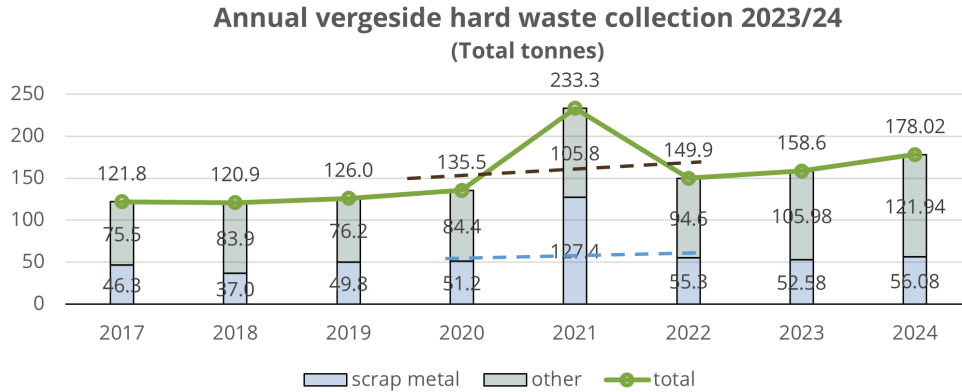
### Waste Collection

The Shire's waste collection contractor is Cleanaway. Their services under the contract include provision of regular kerbside bin collection, street and public bin servicing (Manjimup only), transfers of hook-lift bulk bins from the three transfer stations, and an annual vergeside hard waste collection service. Waste was taken to the MRRC landfill and commingled recyclables to Cleanaway's Materials Recovery Facility in Perth.

Annual Vergeside Hard Waste Collection

The annual vergeside hard waste collection removed more (12.2%) material from the residential properties it is available to than was removed in the previous year. This was broadly in line with the trend observed over much of the previous decade.

About 56 tonnes of scrap metal was separated from other hard wastes and sent on to be used in recycling processes. A further 3.4 tonnes of steel, also sent to recycling, was extracted from the 256 mattresses collected. Thus 33.4% of the total weight of all collected material was diverted from landfill and recycled.

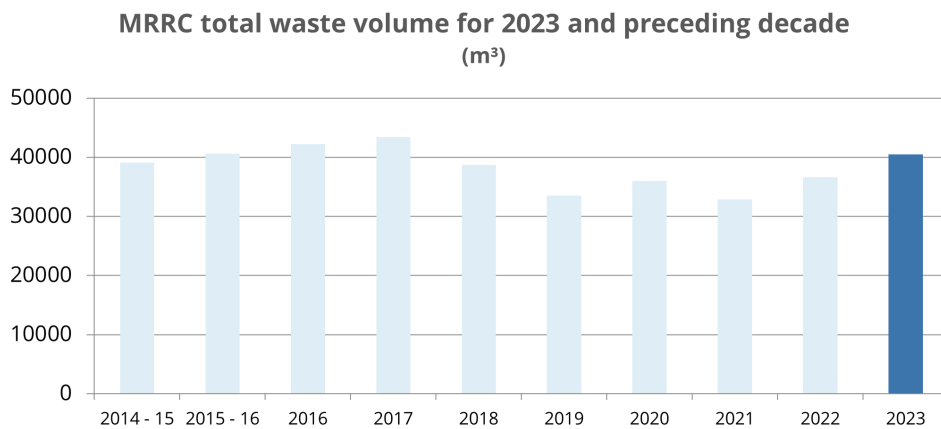


Manjimup Recycling and Refuse Centre (MRRC)

Solid waste was received at the MRRC from the Shire’s municipal services and from its own operational activities, from domestic gardening and clean-up activities, from rural properties, commercial and agricultural activities, and from various construction and demolition projects.

The total volume of solid waste received at the MRRC during the year was 40,526 cubic metres. This represented an 11% increase over the previous year, but only a 5% increase on the annual figure from five years earlier.

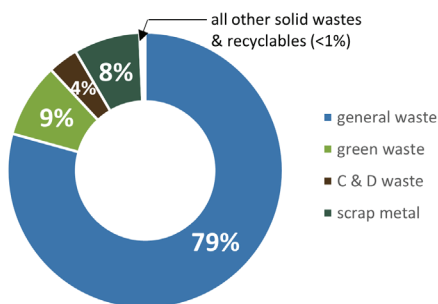
The increase over the previous year was generated by greater volumes of general waste being received than in the previous year, and, in fact, greater than any of the previous six years. However, the five-year rolling average for total waste volume continues to decrease each year, reflecting the long term gradual trend towards less waste generation.



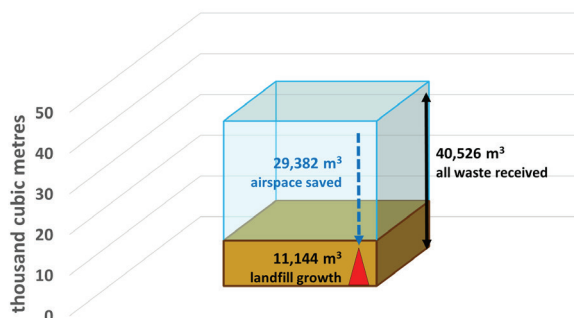
In November 2023 Council adopted the MRRC Site Study Report prepared by Waste Management on behalf of the Shire. With its insights into the potential longevity of the MRRC landfill, the Site Study Report provides a sound foundation for an evolving set of operational plans to guide future management of the MRRC. To date the MRRC Landfill Closure Management Plan 2023 is complete.

During the past year, general waste made up 79% of all waste by weight. The proportion of all waste which is garden green waste was 9% by weight in the most recent year. Conversely, construction and demolition waste (4% by weight) has continued to reduce in proportion to other wastes over the past five years, perhaps reflecting the peaks and troughs of major civic construction projects across the Shire.

Proportions of Solid Wastes Received by Weight (MRRC 2023/24)



Landfill Airspace Saved by Diversion and Compaction (MRRC 2023)



### Landfill

About 40,526 m<sup>3</sup> of waste was received at the MRRC during the year, measured or estimated on arrival. However, the spatial growth of the actual landfill over the same period was only 11,144 m<sup>3</sup>, as calculated by independent drone survey. This suggests that around 29,382 m<sup>3</sup> of airspace was preserved for future landfilling operations.

This 73% saving in landfill void space take-up is the result of two key measures. First, Council allocates significant budgeted funds to the diversion of certain waste materials from landfill (e.g. scrap metal, commingled household recyclables and bulky recyclables). Second, the Shire’s site operations contractor, Verge Enviro, compacts the residual landfill diligently. Maintaining this high efficiency ratio is key to continuing the life of the MRRC landfill to its maximum potential.

### Recycling

Council continues to strongly support recycling through its allocation of budgets to this key activity. The two areas of focus are household commingled recycling and resource recovery from bulky recyclables.

The Shire’s commingled recycling contractor (Cleanaway) continued to provide a reliable destination for our mixed household containers, paper and cardboard, collected by the Shire’s regular fortnightly kerbside yellow-lid bin service (513 tonnes), and through drop-off bulk bins at MRRC and at the three transfer stations (64 tonnes). However, regional data suggests that approximately 25% of material collected for recycling is contamination which must be sent to landfill. These figures suggest that for each resident, just under 45kg of household recyclable material was successfully processed during the year.

Other waste streams diverted from landfill for resource recovery included scrap metal, e-waste (computers, televisions and other electric or electronic items), vehicle tyres, mattresses, vehicle and household batteries, cooking oil and motor oil, printer cartridges, mobile phones and fluorescent light tubes. All of these materials were received in significant volumes.

Council’s investment of funds and effort into the diversion of these bulky waste materials from landfill is critical to the management of all waste generated in the Shire of Manjimup. Comprehensive recycling has the triple benefits of our reduced reliance on new, raw resources, the minimisation of risk to the environment through fire and leachate pollution of our groundwater, and the minimisation in growth of our landfill. Each of these has very significant long-term benefits to all of us.

# OUR PROSPERITY

## Community Goals

2.1 New people and new businesses are attracted to the region.

2.2 Existing core industries, such as agriculture and timber, are resilient, innovative and sustainable.

2.3 The local economy is diversified and supports a range of industries and job opportunities.

2.4 Industry and development is not hindered by excessive or complex compliance regulations.

2.5 Local business thrives because it has access to information and support, and because the community maximises the use of local resources, services and products.

2.6 The region grows in reputation as a world-class culinary, agricultural, environmental and trails tourism destination.

2.7 Our quality primary and secondary education opportunities are maintained and access to a range of life-long learning and training opportunities is broadened.

## Key Achievements

### Trail Bike Hub Motors On

The Manjimup Trail Bike Hub is being developed as a premier destination for trail bike enthusiasts, aiming to attract both interstate and international riders. This project is designed to position Manjimup as a key location for trail bike tourism in Western Australia, offering a comprehensive experience that includes diverse riding trails and supporting services for trail bike tourists.

A central feature of the Hub is the Adventure Rider Experience, which will offer a variety of exciting trail options for adventure riders. Alongside this, the Trail Bike Friendly Business Program is being established to encourage local businesses to cater specifically to trail bike riders, providing accommodation, food, maintenance, and retail services.

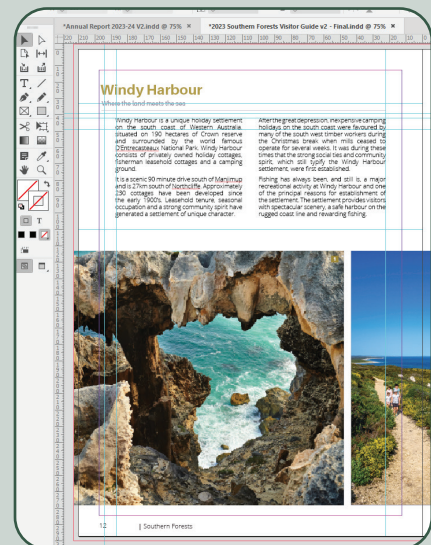
Though still under development, the Manjimup Trail Bike Hub is already generating significant interest. Once complete, it will attract riders from across Australia and overseas, driving tourism and creating new business opportunities for the local community. This project will help solidify Manjimup's reputation as a leading trail bike destination in Western Australia.





## In Brief

- Engaged with state-funded and implemented mountain bike and hiking trail networks in Pemberton and the Valley of the Giants.
- Contributed to grant funding secured by the Pemberton Cycling Association for Arboretum trail development.
- Provision of letters of support for local businesses applying for grant funding, particularly for the Native Forest Transition and REDS (Regional Economic Development) grant programs. These letters help strengthen businesses' applications by endorsing their projects and highlighting their potential benefits for the local economy and community.
- Updated the Southern Forests Visitor Guide, maps, and walk trail guides.
- Delivery of the Shire Marketing and Promotion Plan.
- Provided quarterly financial contributions to Shire Visitor Centres as per the Council-approved budget.
- Offered financial support for familiarisation (Famils) trips.
- Strengthened the Manjimup Heritage Park as a significant local attraction.



# OUR COMMUNITY

## Community Goals

3.1 The range of support services in our community are useful, empowering and aligned to community needs now and in the future.

3.2 The health and wellbeing of people of all ages and circumstances is supported within their own community.

3.3 We respond to an ageing demographic by cultivating age-friendly communities that are also inherently dementia and disability friendly.

3.4 A range of efficient, safe and accessible public transport options are provided across the region.

3.5 Our whole community participates in strategies to ensure we are minimising risks in regards to bushfire and other natural emergencies.

3.6 Residents feel safe, secure and comfortable at home, work and at play.

3.7 Our community is vibrant, dynamic and fun because we have access to a broad range of art, cultural, social and recreational opportunities.

3.8 Diversity, inclusivity and harmony are the foundations of our strong community spirit and we celebrate and honour our diverse cultures, heritage and lifestyles.

## Key Achievements

### Local Animal Welfare Plan 2023–2028

The Local Animal Welfare Plan 2023–2028 was officially endorsed by both Council and the State Emergency Management Committee in July 2023.

This comprehensive plan outlines the Shire of Manjimup’s approach to supporting the community with animal management during emergencies or disasters. It provides clear guidelines and strategies for ensuring the welfare of domestic pets, livestock, and wildlife, addressing critical needs such as evacuation, shelter, and medical care.

The plan represents a proactive step in safeguarding both animals and their owners, highlighting the Shire’s commitment to preparedness and community resilience in times of crisis.



### Continuous Improvement

Shire staff participated in a range of training sessions, recovery forums, and incident exercises to enhance their knowledge and skills in emergency management.

These activities were designed to deepen understanding of both the technical requirements of managing emergencies and the specific needs of the local community.

This proactive approach ensures that the Shire is better equipped to respond effectively to emergencies, prioritising safety, recovery, and community well-being.

## Tattenham Road Fire



In December 2023, the Tattenham Road Fire broke out in Meerup, near Northcliffe. The fire began on December 19 and continued burning past Christmas, impacting areas such as Callcup, Crowea, and Meerup. Spanning approximately 2,000 hectares, the fire was bounded by Pemberton Northcliffe Road, Barker Road, Plantation Road, Ryder Road, and Richardson Road.

The fire was managed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife, with dedicated efforts from volunteers who worked tirelessly to control and contain the blaze. Their commitment was recognised with a thank you BBQ and debrief held in February 2024. The cause of the fire was determined to be accidental.

This fire once again highlighted the importance of community preparedness and collaboration in responding to emergencies. It also underscored the invaluable contributions of volunteers and emergency services in protecting lives, property, and the environment during such critical events.

### Ongoing Initiatives

- Annual Community Grants Program provided financial assistance events, youth groups, chaplaincy, historical groups, and other sporting/community groups.
- Delivery of annual school awards.
- Continuation of participation in annual Reconciliation Week Banner Program.
- Continue to support and encourage collaboration for emergency relief agencies in the Shire through the Emergency Relief Agencies Network.
- Administration of KidSport program and KidSwim available at Manjimup Regional AquaCentre to enable eligible families to use KidSport vouchers to access swimming lessons.
- Ongoing financial assistance to associations operating town recreation centres (Pemberton, Northcliffe and Walpole).
- Support of volunteer thank-you events and community mental health initiatives.
- Continuation of facilitation school students to present their ideas for community improvements to Council.

## Pemberton Community Hub

Significant progress was made on the Pemberton Community Hub – Balang Miya project during the year. Key achievements included completing markings for the back lane and undertaking rectification works on the museum flooring, which now includes the installation of external fans to enhance ventilation. The Hub is now fully operational, with all stakeholder groups actively using the space.

A highlight of the year was the return and reinstallation of the Pemberton RSL Honour Board, following its extensive refurbishment by the dedicated Manjimup Heritage Park Volunteers. Additional RSL memorabilia has also been carefully re-hung in the Hub boardroom, further enriching the space and preserving its historical significance. These efforts reflect the Shire's commitment to fostering community connections and maintaining local heritage.



## Support for Pemberton Sports Club

In the 2023/2024 financial year, the Shire of Manjimup endorsed the final Pemberton Sports Complex Operational and Governance Model Review, establishing a clear framework for the ongoing management and operation of this important community facility. The review presented nine key recommendations focused on strengthening governance, improving financial sustainability, and enhancing operational efficiency.

A public consultation process was undertaken as part of the review to gather input from the community and key stakeholders. Three consultation sessions were held at the Pemberton Sports Complex in September 2023, engaging local community members, user groups, and the Pemberton Sports Club Inc. The feedback received during these sessions helped shape the final recommendations of the review.

Endorsed initiatives include the introduction of a Fee for Service Agreement with the Pemberton Sports Club, strategic planning to support long-term growth, and audits to reduce electricity and water usage. The recommendations also encompass formalising user agreements and exploring opportunities for co-location with other community groups.

These measures aim to ensure the Pemberton Sports Complex continues to serve as a valued hub for the local community.

## In Brief

- Delivery of youth art projects in Walpole, Northcliffe, Pemberton, and Manjimup.
- Supported the Youth Advisory Group (Youth Council). YAG hosted a community laser tag event to fundraise for anti-bullying campaign.
- Supported Manjimup Police in successfully securing funding and approval for a Police & Community Youth Centre (PCYC) Blue Light Unit.
- Organised the inaugural Community Citizen of the Year (Community Champions) exhibition in the Manjimup Art Gallery. The new format for presenting nominees was very well received.
- Augmentative & Alternative Communication signage at AquaCentre available for patrons.
- Coordination, promotion and marketing of 2024 Australian Heritage Festival with support of five local community groups. Seven activities held across one week.
- RAPAC progressing initiatives surrounding Indigenous art, culture, information, and engagement (e.g., Songlines, sculpture, yarnning circle, concerts, story sharing).
- Noongar seasons banners installed in Manjimup main street.
- Tourism and marketing campaigns included ASW Holiday planner, Caravanning Australia Spring, RAC Horizon and Caravanning Australia Autumn, WA Caravan and Camping Show.
- Tourism and marketing print medium included new Visitor Guide, trail brochures reprints, desk top maps and folded map guides.
- Lease secured with the Southern Forests Community Landcare into the old café building at the Manjimup Heritage Park.
- Delivery of the Manjimup Careers in Local Government Day with South Regional TAFE WA.



## Our Libraries

Shire Libraries' STEM and other school holiday activities encouraged the creative talents of children throughout the area. The workshops offered a variety of engaging experiences from arts and crafts to science experiments and environmental protection. Children built fabulous flying machines, delighted in making slime, tinkered with monsters and crafted lanterns, flowers and origami animals. These activities provided opportunities for children to have fun and make new friends while nurturing their imagination and creativity.

Shire Libraries are vibrant hubs for adults to connect, learn and enjoy themselves. This year, our author talks spanned a variety of historical and contemporary themes, woven together by the magic of storytelling. Meanwhile, our book clubs sparked lively discussions, with participants passionately agreeing and disagreeing over the titles chosen and often branching out to wider themes. Our libraries attracted 162 new members and many have joined in the book clubs or developed their own while still drawing on Library book club sets.

Our weekly Rhyme and Story Time activities, annual visits to the library by all kindergarten classes in the Shire, Childrens' Book Week workshops and the Year 1 Super Readers program are all designed to foster strong literacy skills in our early childhood group. These engaging activities are all about sparking a love for reading and learning from a young age.

The Indigenous tradition of visual storytelling took centre stage at the Manjimup Art Gallery's Koondarm Wagkiny (Dream Telling) exhibition. This captivating showcase featured a stunning fusion of traditional and contemporary styles of two talented Noongar artists, Megan Corby and Graham 'Swag' Taylor, beautifully blending the old and the new.

The Manjimup Art Gallery's program featured the Contours exhibition, showcasing the breathtaking work of Western Australia's renowned aerial photographer, Richard Woldendorp. The Gallery also highlighted local talent with exhibitions such as Gwen Jefferyes' mesmerising Reflections and the dynamic Stepping into the Spotlight showcase by Manjimup Senior High School Year talented 10-12 art students'.



## Home and Community Care

Manjimup Home and Community Care offers vital support to the aged and disability community through the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP), Home Care Packages (HCP), and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The infographics below detail the support provided to clients during the 2023/24 financial year. In the descriptions, OOS refers to occasions of support.



665  
day centre  
respite hours



2,602  
personal  
care OOS



3,154  
transport  
OOS



1,288  
cottage  
respite hours



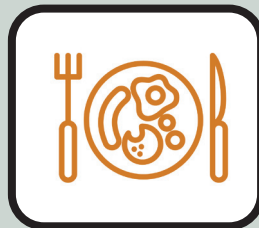
4,648  
domestic  
assistance OOS



200  
in home  
respite hours



3,250  
home & garden  
maintenance OOS



1,682  
total meals on wheels  
and at the Centre



542  
food  
preparation OOS



7,158  
group social  
support OOS



2,125  
individual social support  
OOS



410  
total  
clients

# OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

## Community Goals

4.1 Infrastructure gaps in regards to energy, water, sewerage, and information and communication technology services are resolved.

4.2 Community infrastructure is delivered and maintained at a level of service that is aligned with community needs now and in the future.

4.3 Land use planning strategies support the sustainable development and growth of our communities.

4.4 Town centres are accessible, attractive and inviting whilst maintaining their unique characters.

4.5 Parks and open spaces are attractive and create opportunities for people to come together, socialise and enjoy a range of activity.

4.6 Sport and recreation facilities sustain a broad range of pursuits.

4.7 Community infrastructure planning responds to an ageing demographic and is also inherently dementia and disability friendly.

4.8 Places of heritage value are recognised and retained.

4.9 Transport infrastructure and networks provide for the safe movement of all users.

## Key Achievements

### In Brief

- The building cleaning team faced increased pressures. Additional staff were engaged to maintain high standards and assist with LRCI projects.
- Renewal of recirculation pumps and automatic entry door at Manjimup Regional AquaCentre.
- Construction of Manjimup Tennis Club facilities in progress with financial contribution of Shire.
- Stage 1 (power upgrade, new playing fields lighting and events electrical bollards) of the Manjimup Rea Park & Collier Street Precinct Redevelopment underway.
- Construction of Trails Centre for Manjimup Trail Bike Hub completed. Assisted Manjimup Trail Bike Hub Association to secure grant funding for the fit-out.
- Installation of refreshed skate park safety signage in Walpole, Pemberton, and Northcliffe Skateparks.
- Installation of a new banner system on the street lighting poles in Giblett Street for promoting the region.
- Ongoing maintenance of the Manjimup Heritage Park, including new soft fall sand installation noting it as a key tourist attraction for the region and in line with the Manjimup Heritage Park Management & Development Plan 2022 – 2027.
- Installation of a 'pick up/drop off bay' outside of the Manjimup Heritage Park.
- New basket swing and soft fall at Leman Street playground and Quinninup playground.
- Install of picnic settings at Northcliffe dam.
- Permanent Speed Indicator devices were installed along Brockman Street in Pemberton.
- Completed 10km of centre line marking on low-traffic rural roads to enhance safety.



## Infrastructure Works

### Manjimup Town Hall

Through the dedicated efforts of our building staff, the entire interior of the town hall was repaired and painted, and the dado was replaced. This comprehensive refurbishment has revitalised the space.

### Manjimup Community Centre

Continued progress included the installation of skirting boards and repainting of the library section. Additionally, a new external cover wall was constructed to prevent water ingress through the existing brick wall, addressing years of water damage. A persistent severe roof leak above the library manager's desk was also successfully repaired, both issues stemming from poor initial workmanship.

### Power Up Museum, Visitors Centre and Café

The team faced challenges with premature failures in the café's rangehood system. Due to the complex Building Management System, assistance was required from companies in Perth and Bunbury.



### Manjimup Indoor Sports Pavilion

Significant progress was made with the installation of a replacement bulkhead for the entire "Cecily McGuire" grandstand and the completion of the lining to the back wall. These improvements have greatly enhanced the comfort and feel of the grandstand.

## Infrastructure Works

### Pemberton Sports Club

Various tasks were completed, including new carpets, LED court lighting, upgraded switchboards, and replacement of ceiling panels. Additionally, catastrophic failures necessitated the replacement of the main gas line and all hot water systems servicing the changerooms.



### Pemberton Colocation

Post-handover, it was discovered that the main floor of the old RSL building was substandard and required replacement. The Building Team managed the entire project, including the installation of a subfloor ventilation system to alleviate historic moisture issues. This project was completed swiftly with generous support from local tradespeople.



## Infrastructure Works

### Northcliffe Town Hall

This historic building received extensive repairs, including foundation work, replacement of all stumps, correction of subsidence, improved drainage, and internal patching and painting. These works were timed to ensure the building was ready for the Northcliffe centenary celebrations.



### Walpole Community Centre

Scheduled repainting was deferred due to the poor condition of the external cladding and stumps. The decision was made to replace the worst section of cladding and necessary stumps, along with stairs, landings, and external doors to improve access compliance.



### Pioneer Park Toilets

The external painting project was completed with invaluable assistance from the Walpole Prison Camp.



## Roadworks

The Shire has undertaken a variety of roadworks to improve local transport infrastructure. A major project this year involved stockpiling gravel and final preparations for the sealing of the Hawke Road intersection and 1km stretch of Old Vasse Road, with sealing scheduled for completion in 2024/25.

Asphalt seals were also applied to several key areas, including the Walpole Jetty Car Park, the intersection of North Walpole Road with the South Western Highway, and the junction of North Walpole Road with Allen Road. Furthermore, the Walpole Pioneer Park Car Park received an asphalt seal.

In Northcliffe, significant progress was made with the construction of a car park at the Pioneer Museum, where an asphalt seal and kerbing were applied to enhance the area. Similarly, the Pemberton Mill Hall Car Park was also sealed with asphalt, improving accessibility. In addition, a car parking area adjacent to the Manjimup Lawn Cemetery is currently under construction.

A series of storm damage responses were carried out, including push-up and burn heap operations at the Pemberton Transfer Station and repairs to Perup Road, which was severely impacted by a mini tornado. The storm also caused damage to various areas, including Old Vasse Road, Tattenham, Wheatley Coast, Charlie, Hillbrook, Hull, Balbarrup, Cosy Creek, and Palgarup West. The Shire also conducted road inspections following these storms to ensure safety and identify further repairs.

The Shire faces several challenges in continuing to meet the community's expectations regarding road upgrades and maintenance. These activities must be carried out within the constraints of limited grant funding and resources. Additionally, sourcing long-term gravel supplies and ensuring roadside vegetation clearing does not delay projects are key considerations for future works.

Details of the roadworks carried out during the 2023/24 financial year are outlined on the following page.

### Unsealed Road Maintenance

The Shire has 297 unsealed roads within its maintenance scope, and in 2023/24, 267 of those roads were graded.

#### Operational statistics

- 4,348 grader hours
- 528.5 roller hours

### Sealed Road Maintenance

The Shire is responsible for maintaining 109 approximately 109 sealed roads. Over the past year, the Shire's Auto Patching Truck completed patching work on 286 roads.

#### Operational statistics

- 733.5 truck hours



## Roads

The following roadworks were undertaken by the Shire's Works Team.

Location	Length (m)	Works undertaken
North Walpole Road	2,300	Construction and guide post install
Channybearup Road	700	Construction
Ward Street	400	Asphalt reseal
Widdeson Street	410	Asphalt reseal
Windy Harbour Road	1,450	Bitumen reseal
Boronia Street, Walpole	150	Asphalt reseal
Rutherford Street	200	Asphalt reseal
Muirillup Road	900	Bitumen reseal
Channybearup Road	350	Bitumen reseal
Sears Road	2,700	Bitumen reseal
Graphite Road	1,400	Bitumen reseal
Seven Day Road	700	Bitumen reseal
Eastbourne Road	2,400	Bitumen reseal
Middleton Road	3,000	Bitumen reseal
Donnelly Road	1,500	Bitumen reseal
Old Vasse Road	1,200	Gravel resheet
Broke Inlet Road	1,200	Gravel resheet
Mitchelldean Road	1,800	Gravel resheet
Ralston Road	1,200	Gravel resheet
Corbalup Road	1,500	Gravel resheet
North Walpole Road	1,000	Gravel resheet
Clarke Road, Walpole	800	Gravel resheet

## Footpaths

A total of 2,593 linear metres of new or replacement footpath was constructed in 2023/24.

Location	Funded by	Length (m)	Width (m)	Material
Main Road, Northcliffe (Stage 2)	WABN & Shire	470	2.5	Concrete
Johnson Street, Manjimup	WABN & Shire	260	2.5	Concrete
Blechynden Street, Manjimup	Shire	200	1.5	Concrete
United Fuels, Manjimup	Shire	35	2	Concrete
Ipsen Street, Manjimup	LRCI	700	1.5	Concrete
Bath Street, Manjimup	LRCI	574	1.5	Concrete
Upper Brockman Street, Pemberton	LRCI	54	3	Concrete
Upper Brockman Street, Pemberton	LRCI	65	2	Concrete
Brockman Street, Pemberton Mill Hall to Club Road	LRCI	120	1.5	Concrete
Meerup Street, Northcliffe	LRCI	100	2	Concrete
Northcliffe toilet block	LRCI	15	2	Concrete

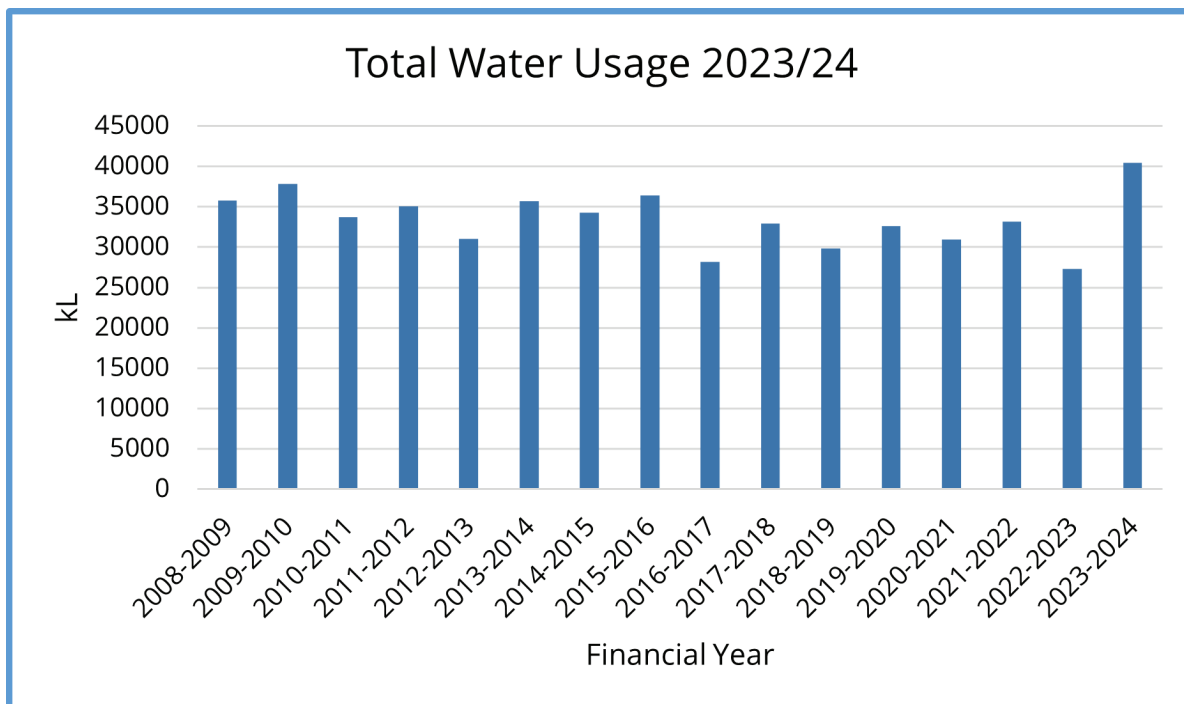
## CASA Certification

The Manjimup Airport has now received CASA (Civil Aviation Safety Authority) Certification - a significant achievement that has been more than five years in the making. This certification will enhance the airport's operations and open up further opportunities for air travel and freight.

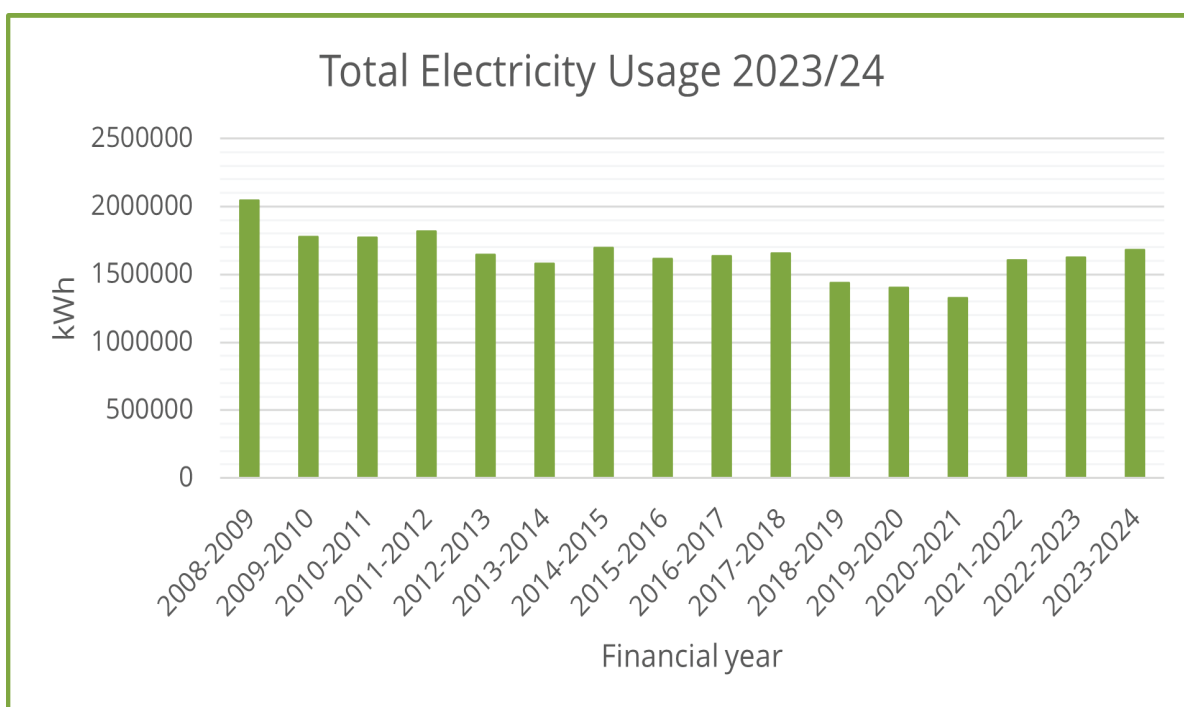
## Water and Energy Usage

By encouraging design features, development practices and behaviours that demonstrate best practice water and energy efficiency, we can reduce water and electricity usage. Analysis of the water and electricity usage in graphs below should also consider the increases in infrastructure and community use in Shire of Manjimup facilities since 2008.

From the 2008/09 financial year to the 2023/24 financial year, the Shire of Manjimup's water usage increased by 12%.



From the 2008/09 financial year to the 2023/24 financial year, the Shire of Manjimup's electricity usage decreased by 17%. The electricity usage does not include street lighting which is approximately 14% of the overall usage.



# OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## Community Goals

5.1 All elected members and Shire employees uphold the values of professionalism, proactivity, reliability, integrity and courtesy.

5.2 The Shire's long-term planning and activities deliver on the community's goals and aspirations.

5.3 Our elected members represent the best interests of the community.

5.4 Community participation in decision making is maximised.

5.5 The Shire communicates effectively with all its communities.

5.6 The Shire is a resilient and financially stable organisation that uses public funds responsibly.

5.7 Asset management plans are developed and implemented to maintain community assets at the appropriate standard.

5.8 The Shire continuously improves organisational performance and service delivery.

## Key Achievements

### Council Meetings Go Live

A key achievement for the year was the successful implementation of livestreaming Shire of Manjimup Ordinary Council Meetings. This initiative, which began on 2 May 2024, has significantly enhanced community engagement in the Shire's decision-making processes, particularly within our geographically expansive shire. Real-time access to Council meetings, has ensured greater transparency and inclusivity, enabling residents to stay informed and engaged from any location.



### 2023 Council Election

The Shire of Manjimup held its local government election on 21 October 2023. Following State Government reforms requiring a review of ward and councillor structures across Western Australia, the Shire reduced its number of wards from six to two and its councillor numbers from 11 to eight, plus a Shire President.

The 2023 election included two Councillor positions and, for the first time, a directly elected Shire President position. There were two nominees for the Shire President position and eight for the Councillor positions. This election also marked the first use of the preferential voting system in the Shire.





## Pemberton Mill Site Remediation

The Shire actively encouraged community engagement regarding the planned remediation of the fire-affected Pemberton Mill site. Although not leading the project, the Shire worked with the State Government, Parkside, and Thuroona Services to ensure clear communication with the local community. The Shire advocated for the complete remediation of the site, recognising its significance for public health and Pemberton's future development. The Shire encouraged Parkside and the State Government to hold public workshops, allowing residents to ask questions and stay informed about the remediation process.

## Road Safety Award

In 2023/24, the Western Australian Local Government Association invited the Shire to become a RoadWise Council. This new WALGA initiative was developed to encourage, motivate, and support local governments to incorporate best practice road safety principles and policy across their business services with the aim to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on local roads.

The Shire was honoured with the WALGA Roadwise Road Safety Award for The Safe System Approach – Complementary Initiatives (Rural/Remote). This prestigious award recognised the Shire's innovative Road Traffic Safety Policy, the first of its kind in WA. The policy integrates safe system principles across all Shire operations, guiding road maintenance and construction to improve safety across the district's extensive road network.

The award highlights the Shire's commitment to reducing road trauma and enhancing public safety, particularly in rural and remote areas.

## Property Care Team Wins APM Sustainable Disability Employment Award

The Shire's Property Care Team won the WA Community Achievement APM Sustainable Disability Employment Award, which recognises businesses creating employment opportunities for people with disabilities. As part of the prize, the team received a \$500 Woolworths Gift Card which they decided to donate to the Manjimup Education Support Centre, where some members previously studied, to support the Centre's Work Experience program.



# FUTURE PLANNING



## Looking Forward to 2024/25

The Shire of Manjimup's future planning is guided by our Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework, ensuring that planning is clear, connected, and responsive to the community. The framework aligns various aspects of the Shire's work and supports the delivery of our 10-year Strategic Community Plan.

By linking performance monitoring with planning, the Shire can respond to changes in community needs and the business environment. The approach gathers community input, sets clear long-term goals, and outlines the necessary resources and financial implications.

Plans for 2024/25 will continue to build on these foundations. Outlined below are a range of the Shire's key initiatives for the upcoming financial year.

### Our Natural Environment

- Consultation with key stakeholders on the new Environmental Sustainability Strategy which supersedes the Natural Environment Strategy, Environmental Management and Sustainability Strategy, and Weed Strategy.
- Bushfire Risk Management Plan 2019 – 2024 to be reviewed, updated and approved by both Council and Department of Fire and Emergency Services.
- Staff will continue to apply for Mitigation Activity Funds to meet the objectives of both the Shire of Manjimup Fuel Hazard Reduction Plan 2019 – 2024 and any future Bushfire Risk Management Plan.

### Our Prosperity

- Development of Manjimup Trail Bike Hub 'Trail Bike Tourer Experience' and 'Single Track Explorer Experience', and undertaking feasibility study to develop Off-Road Vehicle Area(s)/Trails.
- Ongoing commitment to the Southern Forests Food Council and agri-tourism.
- Development of a Marketing Strategy for the Manjimup Heritage Park.
- Development of a new Marketing Strategy for the Shire.
- Investigating how to improve turn around times on development applications.

### Our Community

- Installation of generator outlets on all nominated Evacuation Centres and investment in a mobile generator to efficiently support the provision of services to residents in evacuation centres should there be power failures.
- Review and update the Local Emergency Management Arrangements. Staff will have a proposed Local Emergency Management Arrangements, Local Evacuation Plan and Local Recovery Plan to Council and the State Emergency Management Committee for endorsement in mid-2025.
- Future Forums to be held to determine the community aspirations of each town.
- Development of next level 'Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan'.
- Shire working with RAP Advisory Committee on First Nations information signage for Manjin Park.
- Roll out of KidSport Regional Pools Program (December 2024 – March 2025) to allow eligible children to access the pools at the AquaCentre.

- Securing funding to complete the building works at Pemberton Community Hub.
- Aged care services review.
- Upgrade of the State Timber Museum Memorial Room.
- Coverage of the larger relic items at the Manjimup Heritage Park.
- Working with local arts group on the development of a Yarning Circle in the Manjimup Heritage Park.
- Collaboration with LGA's in the Southern Forests & Valley Region on the development of the 2025 Regional Heritage Festival.
- Appointment of a part time Curator to assist with the conservation, management and preservation of the Shire's collection housed at the Manjimup Heritage Park.

### **Our Infrastructure**

- Continued infrastructure works under the LRCI grant program.
- Manjimup Regional AquaCentre change room upgrade.
- Grant applications in progress to secure funding for the implementation of Stage 2 of the Manjimup Rea Park and Collier Street Precinct Redevelopment, which will include playing fields redevelopment and new/upgraded amenities.
- New Trails Centre to be leased and operated by the Manjimup Trail Bike Hub Association.
- Investigation and improvement of the sight lines for the Sandra Donovan Sound Shell.
- Development of a Heritage Park Management Team.
- Planning to complete review and adoption of Local Planning Strategy in 2025, and the development of a new Local Planning Scheme.
- Plans to give the Manjimup Library a long overdue makeover. The new layout will feature sleek, modern shelving designed at just the right height and depth, to make it easy for borrowers of all ages to access their favourite resources.

### **Our Local Government**

- Review to be conducted of sporting grounds maintenance agreements with sporting clubs and community groups.
- Future Forums will be held to align each town's community aspirations with the Shire's long-term planning and activities in conjunction with a review of the Shire's Strategic Community Plan and Corporate Business Plan.
- Restructuring delegated authority to improve efficiencies in development application assessment and determination.
- Changes to the Council meeting schedule to be implemented.
- Undertake a Shire-wide Strategic Asset Review.
- Undertake a Rating Policy review and develop a Rating Strategy.
- Undertake a review of the Shire Communications Plan.

# STATUTORY INFORMATION



## **Freedom of Information**

The Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 1992 is applicable to the Shire of Manjimup. The FOI Coordinator for the Shire of Manjimup is Senior Administration & Property Officer, the Decision Maker is the Director of Business, and the Chief Executive Officer is the FOI Internal Review Officer.

During 2023/24, the Shire received six (6) requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The average time to process each request was 42 days. In accordance with Section 96(1) the Shire of Manjimup has produced an 'Information Statement' and is available at the Shire office in Manjimup or by contacting the FOI officer.

## **Record Keeping Compliance**

The Shire of Manjimup is committed to maintaining effective and compliant record-keeping practices, in line with legislative requirements, including the State Records Act 2000. The Shire uses Content Manager as its record management system to ensure the proper capture, storage, and retrieval of records.

As part of the Shire's commitment to staff training, employees receive a record management induction within their first month of employment. In the 2023/24 financial year, 10 new staff members completed this induction. Additionally, ongoing support is provided through one-on-one training sessions with the Records Officer, with training tailored to the specific needs of each employee's role.

## **Public Interest Disclosures**

The Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003 (amended 2012) applies to the Shire of Manjimup. The public disclosure officers for the Shire of Manjimup are Gail Ipsen Cutts and Evy Apeldoorn, who are required to report annually to the Commissioner via the online reporting to the 'Integrity and Conduct Survey'. In 2023/24, no disclosures were received.

## **Complaints**

In accordance with Section 5.53 of the Local Government Act 1995 and the associated Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations 2007, there were no complaints made against Councillors for the financial year 2023/24.

# DISABILITY ACCESS & INCLUSION

The *Disability Services Act 1993* requires all local government authorities to report annually on the implementation of its Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP).

The Shire's DAIP was reviewed this financial year, with the Shire of Manjimup Access and Inclusion Plan 2024 - 2029 adopted by Council in November 2023. The plan acts as a framework to ensure all members of the community are supported to have the same opportunities as others to access services, facilities and information.

Key achievements for the 2023/24 financial year include:

- Shire staff completed disability awareness training and EEO workplace behaviours training.
- Home and Community Care staff were trained in individual support, manual handling, medication, dementia care, disability awareness, palliative care, understanding of AS1428 Design for Access and Disability, and the NDIS Quality Commission 'Safety, Quality and You' online training.
- Volunteering positions were offered and held by disabled persons at Home and Community Care and the Manjimup Library.
- Work placement opportunities provided to Manjimup Education Support Centre high school students with the Shire Property Care Team.
- The Shire maintained its status as an Australian Disability Enterprise through increased employment of persons with disabilities working within the Property Care Team.
- Free wheelchair facilities were provided at Manjimup Heritage Park and Manjimup Regional AquaCentre for individuals with restricted mobility.
- New/updated ACROD parking bays with monitoring of unauthorised use.
- New and upgraded accessible footpath, new modified pram ramps, and new kerb ramps installed across the Shire.
- New car park, inclusive playground, sensory garden, sheltered accessible barbeque area, sealed pathways, and outdoor seating with space for wheelchairs.
- Supporting accessibility of events through the availability of the Shire community bus.



*Birdsnest swing installed at Leman Street playground*



*Accessible path and railings at Pemberton Community Hub Balang Miya*



*2024 Active Seniors Living Expo*



SHIRE OF  
MANJIMUP