Shire of Collie

Local Public Health Plan

2026–2031

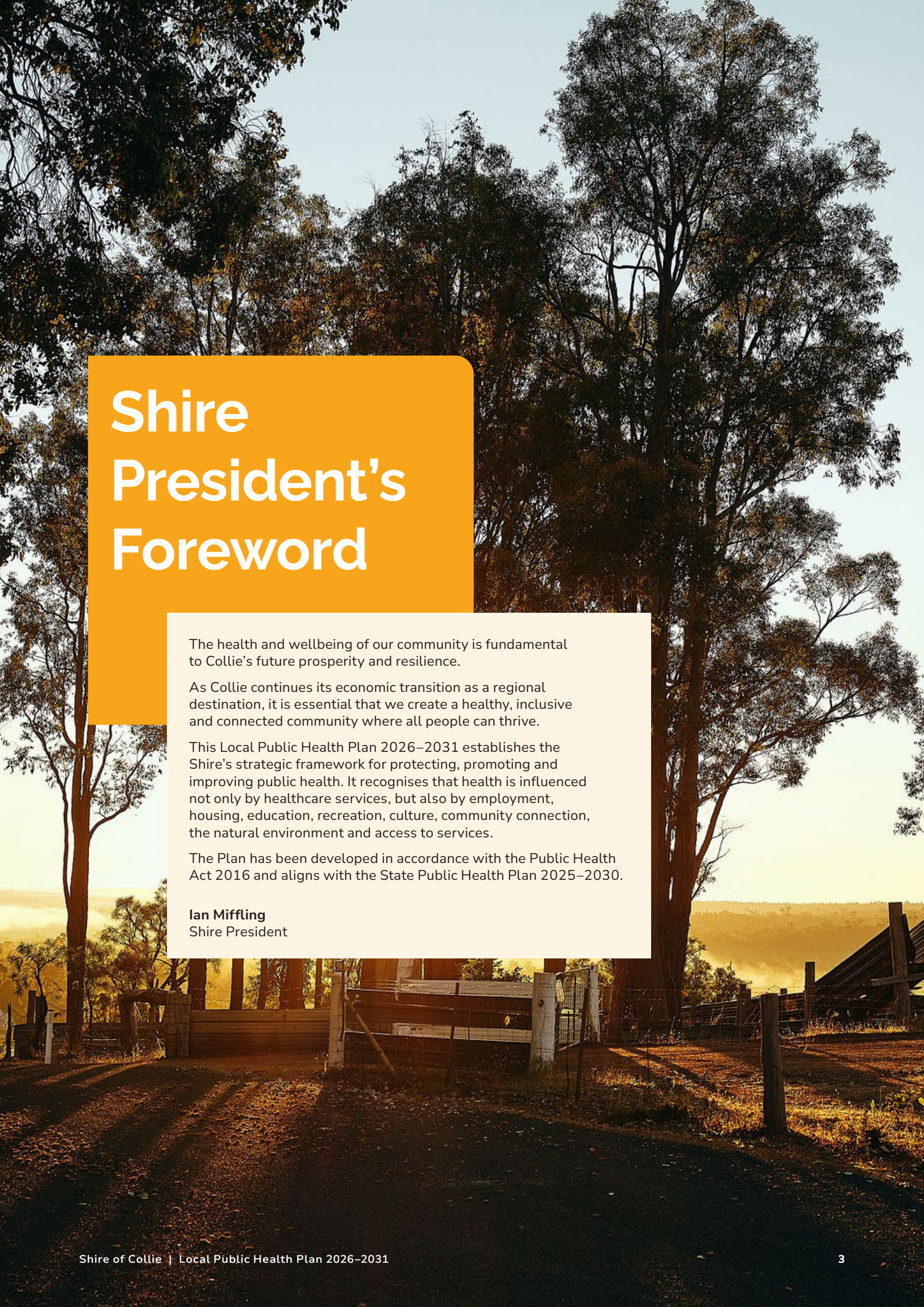


Acknowledgement of Country
The Shire of Collie acknowledges the Wiilman and Kaneyang people as the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of the Collie region. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and recognise their continuing connection to Country, culture, community and wellbeing.

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Shire President's Foreword

The health and wellbeing of our community is fundamental to Collie's future prosperity and resilience.

As Collie continues its economic transition as a regional destination, it is essential that we create a healthy, inclusive and connected community where all people can thrive.

This Local Public Health Plan 2026–2031 establishes the Shire's strategic framework for protecting, promoting and improving public health. It recognises that health is influenced not only by healthcare services, but also by employment, housing, education, recreation, culture, community connection, the natural environment and access to services.

The Plan has been developed in accordance with the Public Health Act 2016 and aligns with the State Public Health Plan 2025–2030.

Ian Miffling
Shire President

Executive Summary

The Shire of Collie plays an important role in protecting and promoting the health and wellbeing of the community. Through planning, service delivery, partnerships, advocacy and the provision of community facilities and infrastructure, the Shire can influence many of the factors that support people to live healthy, safe and connected lives.

The Local Public Health Plan 2026–2031 (Plan) provides a framework for improving health and wellbeing outcomes across the district over the next five years. It recognises that health is shaped by more than access to healthcare services. Factors such as employment, housing, education, social connection, recreation, transport, community safety and the natural environment all contribute to the health and quality of life of local residents.

As Collie continues to undergo significant economic and social transition, the Plan seeks to build on the community's strengths while responding to current and emerging challenges. Particular focus is placed on supporting mental wellbeing, encouraging healthy lifestyles, improving inclusion and accessibility, strengthening community resilience, protecting environmental health and ensuring people have opportunities to participate in community life.

The Plan has been developed in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health Act 2016 and aligns with the State Public Health Plan 2025–2030. It adopts the State's overarching objectives of Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing and Equity and Inclusion, together with the core public health objectives to Promote, Prevent, Protect and Enable health and wellbeing outcomes.

Recognising that no single organisation can improve public health outcomes alone, the Plan emphasises collaboration with government agencies, health services, Aboriginal organisations, schools, businesses, sporting clubs and community groups. Through these partnerships, the Shire will continue to support initiatives that improve health outcomes, strengthen community connections and create a healthier and more resilient community.

The Local Public Health Plan will be implemented through the Shire's existing planning and reporting framework and reviewed regularly to ensure it remains responsive to community needs, emerging risks and changing priorities.



Our Vision

Collie – Nature at our doorstep, community at heart.

Introduction

The Local Public Health Plan 2026–2031 provides a framework for how the Shire will work with partners and the community to improve health and wellbeing across the local government area. It recognises that good health is influenced not only by healthcare but also by the environments where people live.

What is Public Health?

Public health refers to the health and wellbeing of the public; it is much more than just the provision of health services and managing environmental health risks but encompasses all aspects of life that enable the community to thrive. By actively planning for the best public health outcomes of a community, local governments can support and drive the changes required.

Public health considerations affect the lives of Western Australians every day and include a wide range of actions aimed at improving the wellbeing and quality of life and encompass both historical and proposed activities in the natural and built environment (Department of Health WA, 2025).

Legislative Framework

The Public Health Act 2016 (WA) established a risk-based framework for protecting and promoting the health of all Western Australians. Under the Act, each local government must prepare a Public Health Plan that identifies the public health needs of people within its local government area.



State Public Health Plan

The State Public Health Plan provides direction for all levels of government, health services, and communities. It identifies four key pillars, supported by two overarching priorities, which guide public health action across the state as shown below:

Promote

Foster strong, connected communities and healthier environments.

The Shire supports healthy and active lifestyles through the provision of parks, trails, recreation facilities, community programs, events and initiatives that encourage social connection, participation and community wellbeing.

Prevent

Reduce the burden of chronic disease, communicable disease and injury.

The Shire promotes healthy lifestyle choices, supports disease prevention initiatives, encourages physical activity and healthy eating, and works with partners to improve community awareness of health risks and preventative health measures.

Protect

Protect against public and environmental health risks and strengthen community resilience.

The Shire delivers environmental health services, regulates public health risks, supports emergency management and works to prepare for the health impacts of climate change, bushfire and other emergencies.

Enable

Strengthen partnerships, capacity and systems that support community health and wellbeing.

The Shire works collaboratively with government agencies, health services, Aboriginal organisations, schools, businesses and community groups to deliver initiatives that improve health outcomes and strengthen community resilience.



Shire's Strategic Alignment

The State Public Health Plan 2025–2030 outlines a vision for achieving the highest possible standard of health, wellbeing, and quality of life for all Western Australians. The Shire of Collie Local Public Health Plan 2026–2031 supports this vision by aligning with the State Plan's objectives while also responding to the unique local priorities, opportunities, and challenges faced by the Collie community. Key focus areas include community wellbeing, economic transition, access to services, recreation, environmental health, and emergency preparedness. This alignment is illustrated in Figure 1 below.

Shire Goal	State Public Health Plan Focus (4 Pillars)	Public Health Plan Alignment	What this means for the Community
Our Community 	**Protect** and **Prevent** 	Manages health and safety risks, prevents harm, and improves emergency preparedness.	Safety grows where people feel seen, supported and connected to their community.
Our Natural Environment 	**Protect** and **Promote** 	Supports climate resilience, protects environments, and promotes sustainable healthy living.	Together, we protect today's environment to create a healthier, greener tomorrow for all.
Our Economy 	**Promote** and **Enable** 	Supports a healthy workforce and strong, safe business environments.	Local jobs, sustainable growth, and shared success, building a future full of opportunity.
Our Built Environment 	**Promote** and **Prevent** 	Builds social connection, mental wellbeing, and healthy, active neighbourhoods.	The town is well maintained, with sustainable infrastructure.
Our Organisation Well-Governed and Managed 	**Enable** 	Uses evidence, partnerships, and strong systems to deliver effective public health services.	Good governance means listening, being open and doing what is best for you.

Figure 1 Shire's Strategic Alignment

Community Profile

Gazetted in 1897, the Shire of Collie is located in the South-West region of Western Australia, approximately 200km south of Perth and 55km east of Bunbury.

Key characteristics include:

- Strong industrial, tourism and recreation sectors
- Significant Aboriginal community
- Extensive natural assets including forests, rivers, trails and public open spaces
- A Just Transition process is underway, moving away from coal and coal fired energy industries to renewables

The transition occurring within Collie presents both opportunities and challenges for public health. Economic diversification, employment pathways, housing availability and service accessibility will remain important determinants of community wellbeing throughout the life of this Plan.

Local Demographics

Community Health Snapshot



Community Profile

9,561 people (2025)

Median age of **45.3**

11.4% born overseas (2021)

4.2% Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (2021)

1.28% population growth in 2024-25

Natural Assets

Land Size **1,685km²**

78% State Forest

170km Trails

8 Water Bodies





Employment and Income

Unemployment rate of **5.8%** (2025)

51.2% workforce participation rate in 2021, down from **59.3%** in 2011

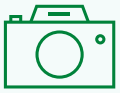
Tourism

Visitor economy overview (2025):

393,877 visitors in 2025

44 accommodation options Shire-wide

17-night average international stay





Education

Comparatively **high** share of Certificate-level qualifications (2021)

Comparatively **low** share with Advanced Diploma/Diploma or higher

Vulnerability

IRSAD (disadvantage index) ranking for Collie in 2021: **lowest quintile** nationally — one of the most disadvantaged LGAs in Australia





Housing

Current:

Average house price of **$589,000**

House price up **17%** in the past year

Average weekly rent of **$531**

Economy and Industry



$2.35 billion generated in Gross Regional Product (2025)

$8.3 billion in total economic output (2025)

Top industries: **Manufacturing** (28.7%), **Mining** (14.3%), **Electricity/Gas/Water/Waste** (10.6%)

418 businesses operating across the Shire (2025)

Key Health Indicators

Indicator	Collie	WA
High or very high psychological distress	**26.7%**	21.7%
Adult obesity	**46.3%**	37.3%
Current smokers	**21.5%**	13.5%
Alcohol consumption at levels posing long-term risk	**40.5%**	35.5%

Source: *Department of Health WA Health and Wellbeing Profile: Shire of Collie (2026).*



Key Health Findings

The Department of Health profile identified a number of health issues affecting the Collie community.

Mental health and wellbeing

Mental health indicators in Collie are generally higher than the WA average. In 2024, more than one in four adults (26.7%) reported high or very high psychological distress. Rates of anxiety and depression were also higher than the State average.

Healthy weight and physical activity

Obesity remains a significant health concern. Almost half of all adults (46.3%) were classified as obese, compared with 37.3% across Western Australia. Physical inactivity among adults was also higher than the WA average.

Nutrition

Consumption of sugar-sweetened drinks was higher than the WA average among both children and adults. Vegetable intake among children remained low and continued to be an area requiring ongoing health promotion.

Smoking

Smoking rates remain considerably higher than the WA average. In 2024, 21.5% of adults reported being current smokers, compared with 13.5% across Western Australia. Tobacco-related hospitalisations and deaths were also higher than State averages.

Alcohol-related harm

Alcohol use remains a significant contributor to poor health outcomes. Rates of risky alcohol consumption, alcohol-related hospitalisations and alcohol-related deaths were all higher than the WA average.

Injury and road safety

Hospitalisation and death rates associated with transport accidents were significantly higher than State averages, highlighting road safety as an ongoing concern for the community.

Communicable diseases

Rates of most notifiable infectious diseases were lower than the WA average. Continued vaccination promotion and disease prevention activities remain important to maintaining these outcomes.



Implications for Local Public Health Planning

The health profile highlights several areas that require ongoing attention during the life of this Local Public Health Plan, including:

- Mental health and wellbeing.
- Healthy lifestyles, physical activity and nutrition.
- Smoking and vaping prevention.
- Alcohol and other drug-related harm.
- Youth health and wellbeing.
- Injury prevention and road safety.
- Aboriginal health and wellbeing.
- Social and economic factors that influence health and wellbeing.

Collie's Strengths and Challenges

Strengths	Challenges
Natural Environment	Mental Wellbeing
Recreation Trails	Smoking
Recreation Facilities	Obesity
Strong Community	Alcohol Harm
Aboriginal Heritage	Road Trauma



Health Profile and Determinants

What Influences Health?

Health is influenced by a range of social, environmental, cultural and economic factors, as well as individual behaviours and access to services. These factors can affect a person's health, wellbeing and quality of life throughout their lifespan.

Social Determinants

- Employment and income
- Housing affordability
- Education and training
- Social connectedness
- Community safety
- Transport access

Environmental Determinants

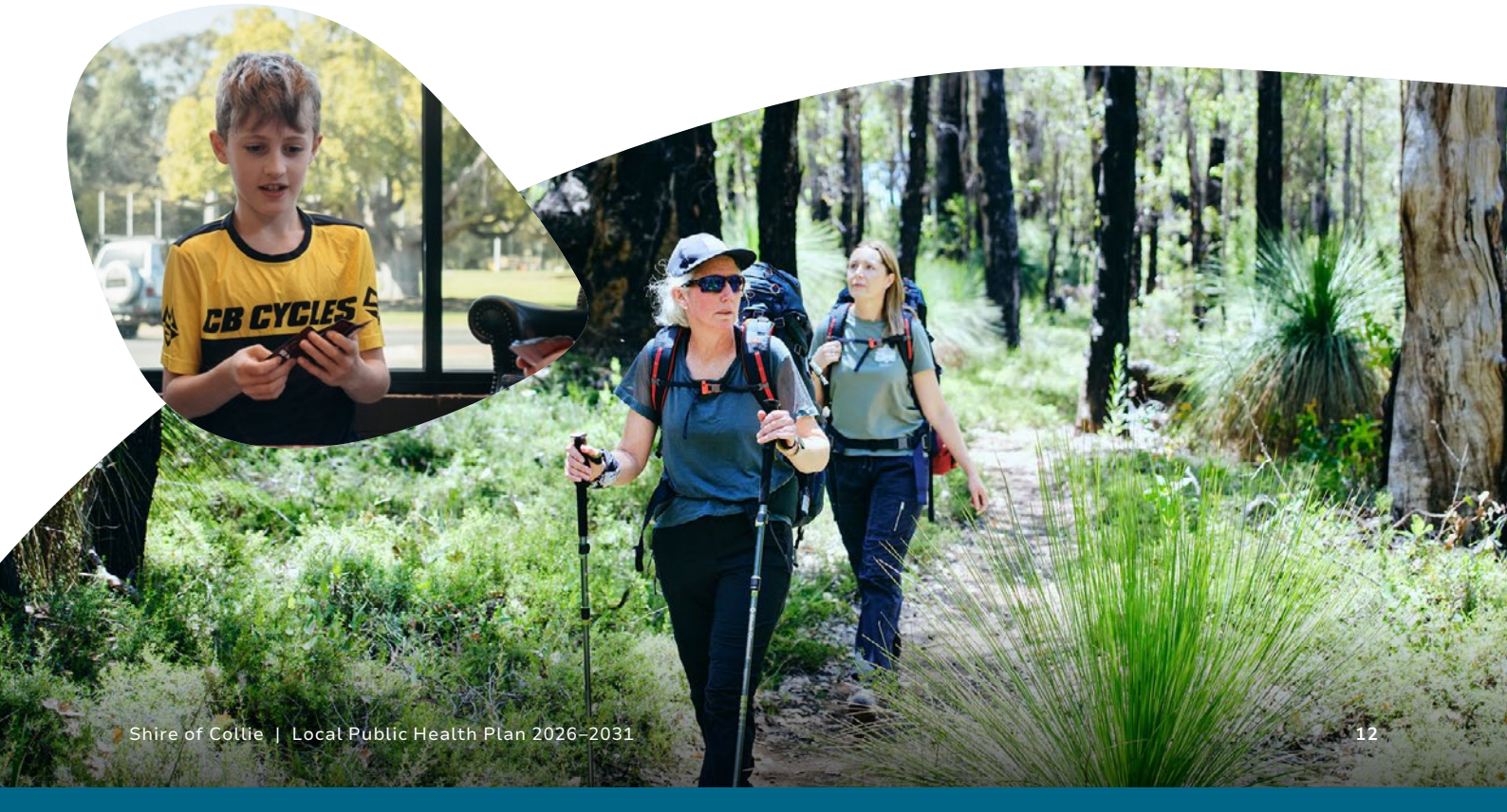
- Air quality
- Water quality
- Climate change
- Urban design
- Access to recreation
- Natural environment

Health Behaviours

- Physical activity
- Nutrition
- Tobacco and vaping use
- Alcohol and other drug use
- Mental wellbeing

Access to Services

- Primary healthcare
- Mental health services
- Child health services
- Aged care services
- Allied health services.



Local Public Health Priorities

The Department of Health's Health and Wellbeing Profile, community feedback and local knowledge have informed the priorities identified in this Public Health Plan. These priorities align with the State Public Health Plan 2025–2030 and reflect the health needs of the Collie community.

The Shire's key public health priorities are:

- Equity and inclusion
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Healthy eating and active living
- Smoking, vaping, alcohol and other drug harm
- Youth health and wellbeing
- Injury prevention and community safety
- Climate change, emergency preparedness and community resilience
- Aboriginal health and wellbeing
- Environmental health and public health protection
- Access to health and support services
- Partnerships, evidence and informed decision-making



Emerging Challenges

Issues likely to influence community health and wellbeing over the life of this Plan include:

- Economic transition and workforce change
- Housing affordability and availability
- Cost of living pressures
- Social isolation and loneliness
- Heatwaves and other climate-related impacts
- Vaping among young people

Local Priorities and Action Plan

The Shire's Action Plan gives effect to this Public Health Plan by setting out practical and measurable actions for delivery across the Shire.

Actions are organised under the four pillars adapted from the State Public Health Plan - Promote, Prevent, Protect and Enable and align with the strategic direction of the Shire's Strategic Community Plan.

Two overarching objectives, Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing as well as Equity and Inclusion apply across all actions and are also shown separately to ensure clear visibility across the Action Plan. The actions identified are drawn from existing Shire's strategies, operational plans and business-as-usual activities. This approach supports a coordinated response, reduces duplication, and focuses effort where the Shire can make the greatest impact. Each action identifies the lead service area and relevant supporting strategies and plans and implementation responsibly.

Action Plan

State Objective 1 – PROMOTE:
Foster strong, connected communities and healthier environments

State Priority	Actions	Lead Service Unit(s)	Supporting Strategies and Plans
1.1 Ensure that planning and development of natural and built environments consider and address public health risks.	a. Consider public health outcomes in strategic land use planning and approvals.	Development Services	• Local Planning Strategy • Local Planning Scheme • Asset Management Plans and Strategies • Open Space and Recreation Facilities Strategy (draft) • Infrastructure Plans • Strategic Community Plan • Directorate Operational Plan(s)
	b. Promote walkable, shaded, and connected communities through integrated urban design.	Development Services Operations	
	c. Deliver green neighbourhoods, sustainable landscaping and support river health programs.	Operations Development Services	
	d. Integrate health considerations into the design and renewal of community/sport hubs, play spaces, and sporting facilities.	Development Services Community and Culture Operations	
1.2 Optimise mental health and wellbeing.	a. Partner and support with community organisations to promote mental health campaigns.	Community and Culture	• Disability Access and Inclusion Plan • Strategic Community Plan • Directorate Operational Plan(s)
	b. Advocate for increased access to services that improve mental health and wellbeing.	Community and Culture	
	c. Support inclusive programs and events that build resilience and belonging.	Community and Culture	
	d. Activate community hubs, libraries, and recreation facilities as wellbeing spaces.	Community and Culture	
	e. Provide safe, inclusive public spaces that support positive mental health.	Operations Community and Culture	
	f. Provide workers with access to mental health and wellbeing support through programs such as Mental Health First Aid, resilience training, and the Employee Assistance Program (EAP).	Office of the CEO	
1.3 Improve health literacy by ensuring accessible and appropriate health information is effectively communicated.	a. Support the delivery of local health awareness campaigns in partnership with relevant stakeholders.	Community and Culture Development Services	• Strategic Community Plan • Directorate Operational Plan(s)

State Objective 2 – PREVENT:

Reduce the burden of chronic disease, communicable disease, and injury

State Priority	Actions	Lead Service Unit(s)	Supporting Strategies and Plans
2.1 Reduce use of tobacco, vapes, and related products.	a. Support smoke-free events and places to promote healthy, smoke-free environments.	Development Services	• Strategic Community Plan • Directorate Operational Plan(s)
2.2 Encourage and support healthy eating and active living to halt the rise in obesity.	a. Promote healthy eating at Shire facilities and events.	Community and Culture	• Strategic Community Plan • Directorate Operational Plan(s)
	b. Encourage active living by activating parks, recreation centres, and community hubs.	Community and Culture Operations	
	c. Provide safe, accessible, and inclusive space that encourage everyday physical activity.	Community and Culture Operations	
	d. Participate in and promote Department of Transport and major infrastructure active transport campaigns.	Operations Community and Culture	
2.3 Reduce harm due to alcohol use.	a. Support and promote alcohol-free events, facilities, and public spaces.	Community and Culture Development Services	• Strategic Community Plan • Directorate Operational Plan(s)
2.4 Prevent injuries and promote safer communities.	a. Promote injury prevention through community education, including falls prevention, active living, and community safety campaigns, supported by initiatives such as the Stay on Your Feet program, to improve awareness and support safer, healthier lifestyles.	Community and Culture	• Asset Management Strategy • Risk Management Framework • Infrastructure Plan • Strategic Community Plan • Directorate Operational Plan(s)
	b. Provide safe roads and transport infrastructure.	Operations	
	c. Design and maintain safe play spaces, public infrastructure, and transport networks.	Operations	
	d. Strengthen community safety through CCTV and partnerships with WA Police.	Development Services Corporate Services	
	e. Embed Crime Prevention through Environmental (CPTED) principles in planning and development.	Development Services	
	f. Maintain and implement WHS policies, lone worker safety procedures, and safety, health and wellbeing policies to foster an initiative-taking safety culture across Shire Operations.	Office of the CEO	

State Objective 3 – PROTECT:

Protect against public & environmental health risks, effectively manage emergencies, reduce impacts of disaster, & lessen the health impacts of climate change.

State Priority	Actions	Lead Service Unit(s)	Supporting Strategies and Plans
3.1 Manage the effects of climate change on people's health and reduce the health system's environmental footprint.	a. Support and promote the uptake of sustainable transport options including walking and bike riding.	Community and Culture Operations	• Strategic Community Plan • Directorate Operational Plan(s)
	b. Support actions to reduce the Shire's environmental footprint.	Corporate Services Operations	
3.2 Prevent, monitor and control notifiable infectious diseases.	a. Conduct statutory surveillance and investigations for notifiable diseases and collaborate with Department of Health on outbreak response.	Development Services	• Strategic Community Plan • Directorate Operational Plan(s)
	b. Monitor foodborne illness, vectors, and water quality risks.	Development Services	
3.3 Provide sustainable disaster and emergency management across prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery phases.	a. Embed health and wellbeing support into Local Government Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMAs).	Development Services	• Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMAs) • Risk management framework • Directorate Operational Plan(s)
	b. Facilitate training in emergency health response.	Development Services	
	c. Plan for and support the delivery of seasonal preparedness workshops (e.g. bushfire, flood, storm).	Development Services	
	d. Support community resilience awareness campaigns	Development Services	
	e. Ensure disaster recovery includes safe, coordinated debris and waste management to minimise public health risks.	Development Services	
3.4 Reduce harm due to current and future health hazards, including environmental, radiation and biosecurity risks.	a. Deliver public education and conduct investigations on environmental risks, including mould, lead exposure, pests, animals, noise, air quality, litter, illegal dumping, and other environmental nuisances.	Development Services	• Strategic Community Plan • Directorate Operational Plan(s)
	b. Deliver residential waste services including kerbside and drop-off options to support safe and sustainable waste management and reduce environmental health risk.	Operations	
3.5 Enhance pandemic preparedness and response to emerging communicable disease threats.	a. Plan for supply continuity, communications, and remote operations.	Development Services	• Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMAs). • Directorate Operational Plan(s)

State Objective 3 – PROTECT:

Protect against public & environmental health risks, effectively manage emergencies, reduce impacts of disaster, & lessen the health impacts of climate change.

State Priority	Actions	Lead Service Unit(s)	Supporting Strategies and Plans
3.6 Ensure access to safe food and water.	a. Register and monitor food businesses through inspections, sampling, and investigation of complaints and outbreaks in accordance with the Food Act 2008.	Development Services	• Strategic Community Plan • Directorate Operational Plan(s)
	b. Provide food safety education and resources to local businesses, community groups, and vendors.	Development Services	
	c. Participate in the Local Health Authorities Analytical Committee (LHAAC) food sampling regime.	Development Services	
	d. Assess development applications and on-site effluent systems, address illegal liquid waste disposal, and liaise with relevant state agencies when required.	Development Services	
	e. Undertake ongoing surveillance program for recreational water bodies which effectively identifies risks through sampling and inspection.	Development Services	



State Objective 4 – ENABLE:

Bolster public health systems and workforce and leverage partnerships to support health and wellbeing.

State Priority	Actions	Lead Service Unit(s)	Supporting Strategies and Plans
4.1 Enhance population health data, collection, management, analysis, and reporting capability.	a. Capture and analyse community complaints, feedback and health trends.	Development Services	• Strategic Community Plan • Directorate Operational Plan(s)
	b. Report into state datasets through statutory regulatory submissions.	Development Services	
	c. Improve internal data systems to strengthen health intelligence.	Corporate Services	
4.2 Foster research and innovation to improve our understanding of, and ability to address, public health issues.	a. Partner with stakeholders to explore the built environment, climate and community services.	Development Services	• Corporate Governance Framework • Directorate Operational Plan(s)
	b. Support ongoing training, upskilling, and mentoring on best practice.	Community and Culture	
4.3 Develop partnerships with key agencies and communities to enable the delivery of public health services.	a. Advocate to strengthen locally based health delivery.	Office of the CEO	• Strategic Community Plan • Directorate Operational Plan(s)
	b. Participate in state and regional public health and wellbeing networks.	Development Services	
	c. Build sustained engagement with community leaders to support equity, participation, and inclusion.	Community and Culture	
4.4 Attract, develop and retain a public health workforce for the future.	a. Support ongoing training, upskilling, and mentoring for environmental health officers and related staff.	Development Services Office of the CEO	• Workforce Plan • Strategic Community Plan • Directorate Operational Plan(s)



OVERARCHING OBJECTIVE: Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing

Improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people in WA through culturally secure services and strong partnerships.

Focus Area	Actions	Lead Service Unit(s)	Supporting Strategies and Plans
5.1 Promote cultural determinants of health by supporting Aboriginal-led initiatives and ensuring culturally secure programs across services.	a. Support community-led health and wellbeing initiatives that are locally based and culturally safe.	Community and Culture	• Strategic Community Plan • Directorate Operational Plan(s)
	b. Work with Aboriginal organisations to support Closing the Gap priorities and targets that local governments can directly influence through culturally safe practice, partnership, inclusion, and access to healthy environments.	Community and Culture Office of the CEO	
5.2 Address racism and strengthen cultural determinants of health for Aboriginal people in WA.	a. Deliver staff training in cultural awareness.	Office of the CEO	• Strategic Community Plan • Directorate Operational Plan(s)
	b. Support Aboriginal pathways in employment, leadership and governance.	Office of the CEO	

OVERARCHING OBJECTIVE: Equity and Inclusion

Improve access to public health services and outcomes for all, regardless of socio-economic or geographic factors.

Focus Area	Actions	Lead Service Unit(s)	Supporting Strategies and Plans
6.1 Empower community groups who are at risk of greater inequities from the impact of social and environmental determinants of health to access health services.	a. Promote and support community-led accessible and inclusive programs.	Community and Culture	• Disability Access Inclusion Plan • Strategic Community Plan • Directorate Operational Plan(s)
	b. Promote inclusive community participation and awareness through recognition of culturally significant days and initiatives that strengthen belonging, respect, and social inclusion across the community.	Community and Culture Office of the CEO	



Monitoring and Evaluation

The Shire will monitor implementation of the Plan and consider whether actions remain relevant and responsive to local needs. Progress will be informed by available health and wellbeing data, partnership activities, emerging public health issues and opportunities, and the delivery of priority actions. The Plan will be reviewed and updated as required in accordance with the Public Health Act 2016 and the Shire's planning and reporting processes.

Progress will be monitored through community engagement and the assessment of available information regarding community participation, environmental health activities, public health initiatives, emergency management actions, and partnerships that support health and wellbeing outcomes. The results of this monitoring process will inform the Shire's strategic planning, as depicted in Figure 2, to ensure ongoing alignment and continuous progress in achievement of 6 objectives.

Elements of Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

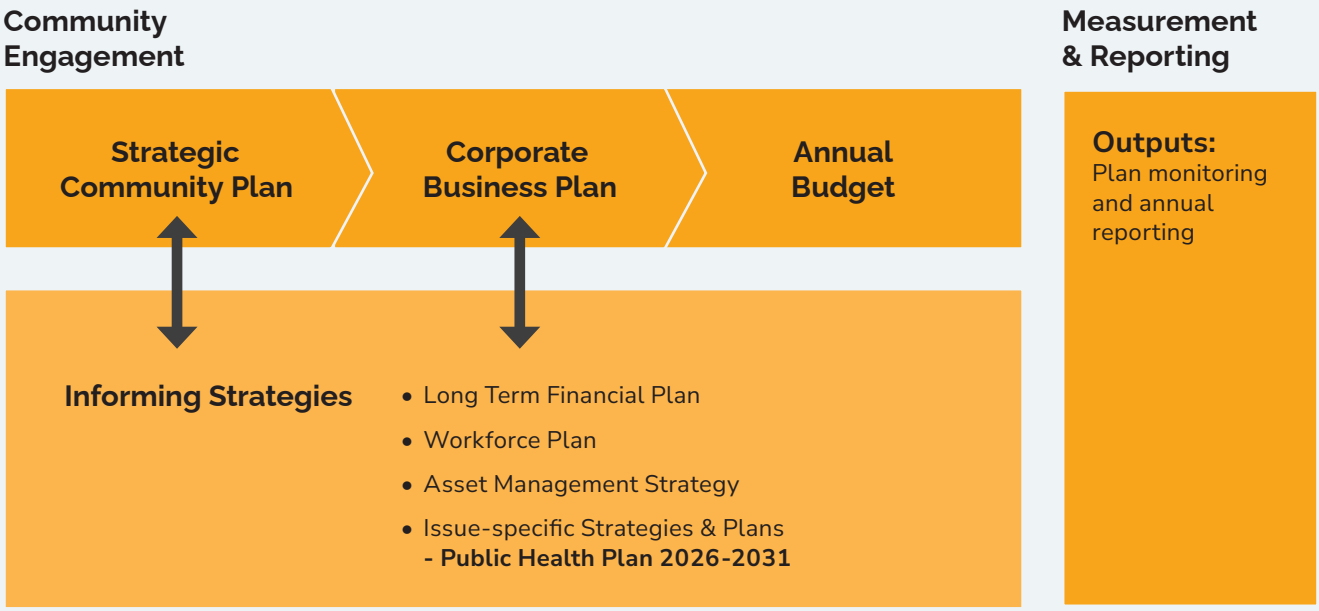


Figure 2 Elements of Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework



Conclusion

This Local Public Health Plan 2026-2031 (Plan) provides provides a framework for protecting, promoting and improving the health and wellbeing of the Collie community over the next five years.

The Plan recognises that health is influenced by social, environmental, cultural and economic factors, and that achieving positive health outcomes requires collaboration across all levels of government, service providers, community organisations and the wider community.

Through the actions outlined in this Plan, the Shire of Collie will work towards a healthy, inclusive, resilient and connected community.



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Shire of
Collie
Explore. Discover. Connect.

87 Throssell Street
Collie WA 6225

t: 9734 9000
e: colshire@collie.wa.gov.au
w: collie.wa.gov.au