![Shire of Chittering logo]

# Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032

**Chittering** - *offering an idyllic rural lifestyle in Muchea, Lower Chittering, Chittering, Mooliabeenie, Bindoon and Wannamal*

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**Shire of Chittering**

## Acknowlegment of Country

*We wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Yued people.  We would like to pay respect to the Elders of the Nyoongar nation, past and present, who have walked and cared for the land, we acknowledge and respect their continuing culture, and the contributions made to this region.*

# Our 2022-2032 Strategic Community Plan at a glance

This Strategic Community Plan 2022-32 reviews and builds on our previous Strategic Community Plan 2017–2027. We are seeking to achieve the following key outcomes for our diverse and growing communities. Strategies for each of these outcomes will enable us to focus our efforts in the planning and delivery of high quality products and excellent services to meet community aspirations:

## Community
*A connected, safe and healthy community*

### Outcomes
Connected communities
A safe and healthy community

## Natural Environment
*Sustainable living in a protected environment*

### Outcomes
Sustainable lifestyle
Environmental protection

## Built Environment
*Improving infrastructure while retaining the rural amenity*

### Outcomes
Retaining rural amenity
Improving infrastructure

## Economy
*Support new and local business, with a focus on agriculture and tourism*

### Outcomes
Economic growth
Local business growth
Increased visitors

## Administration and Governance
*An engaged shire with transparent and efficient governance*
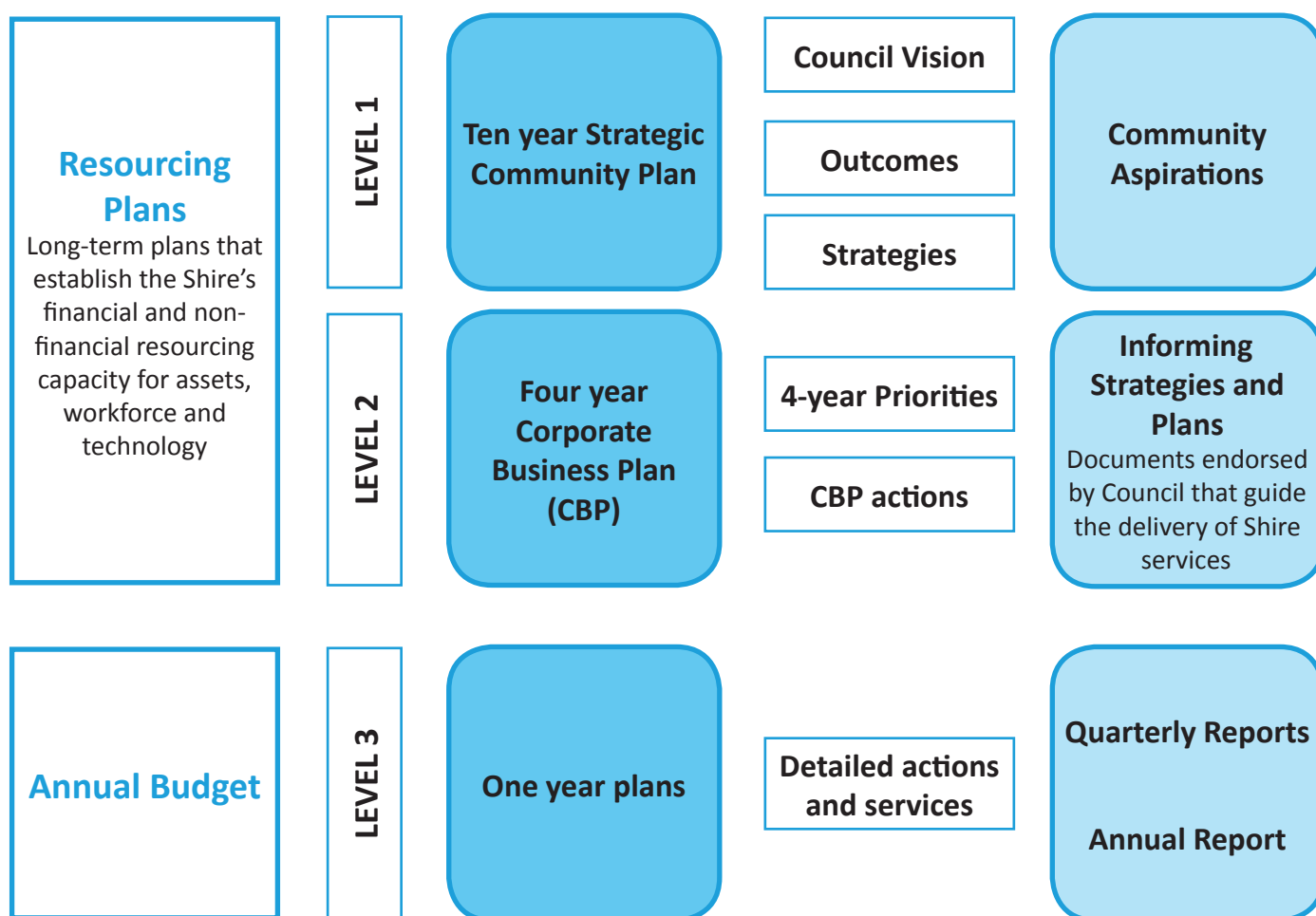
### Outcomes
An engaged shire
Accountable and transparent governance

# Overview of the Integrated Planning Framework

In 2010, the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework (IPRF) was introduced as part of the State Government Reform Program.  Its purpose is to ensure integration of community priorities into strategic planning for Councils, in addition to delivering the objectives that have been set from these priorities.

The Strategic Community Plan is a key part of the IPRF and is a 10 year planning document capturing the priorities of Council as informed by the aspirations of the community.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Resourcing Plans**  Long-term plans that establish the Shire's financial and non-financial resourcing capacity for assets, workforce and technology | **LEVEL 1** | **Ten year Strategic Community Plan** | **Council Vision**  **Outcomes**  **Strategies** | **Community Aspirations** |
| | **LEVEL 2** | **Four year Corporate Business Plan (CBP)** | **4-year Priorities**  **CBP actions** | **Informing Strategies and Plans**  Documents endorsed by Council that guide the delivery of Shire services |
| **Annual Budget** | **LEVEL 3** | **One year plans** | **Detailed actions and services** | **Quarterly Reports**  **Annual Report** |

## Integrated Planning Framework

The **Strategic Community Plan** (SCP) sets out our vision and aspirations for our community for the next ten years.  The SCP addresses the questions:
- **Where are we now?**
- **Where do we want to be?**
- **How do we get there?**

The **Corporate Business Plan** sets out the Shire of Chittering's shorter-term priorities, "activates" our vision, and enables the community to monitor the Council's progress towards achieving these aspirations. The Shire of Chittering needs to work with key stakeholders and partners, such as the State and Federal Government, business and philanthropists to achieve the community vision, objectives and strategies. The Shire also needs to work within its financial capability in order to leave a legacy for future generations.

# Where are we now?

The Shire of Chittering is located 56km North-East of the Perth CBD. It has over 5,900 residents spread over a number of prosperous and diverse rural communities. The demographic data below shows the uniqueness of the Shire of Chittering.
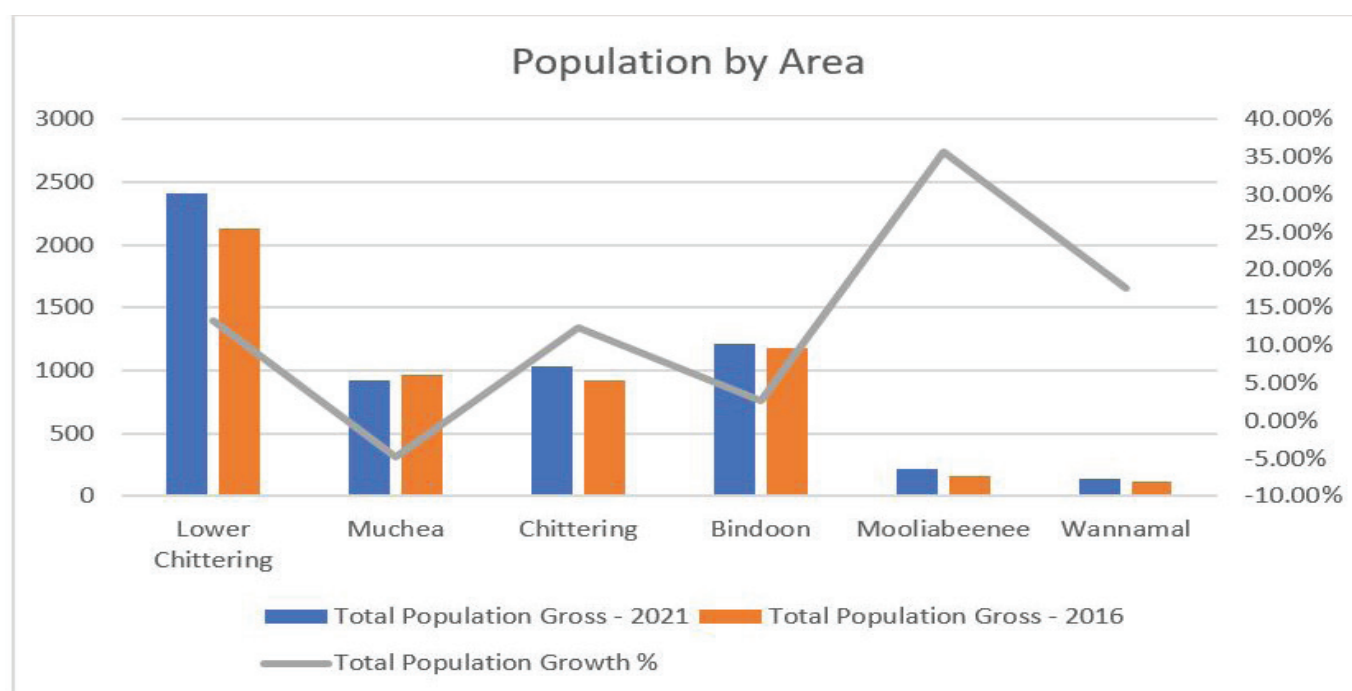
The Shire covers an area of 1,220km2.

The Shire consists of three gazetted townships: Bindoon, Muchea and Wannamal; together with three localities: Upper Chittering, Lower Chittering and Mooliabeenee.

There are 2,402 private dwellings, an increase of 196 dwellings over the past five years. There is an average number of people per dwelling of 2.8 (ABS 2021). The overall information for the shire does not reflect the true diversity:
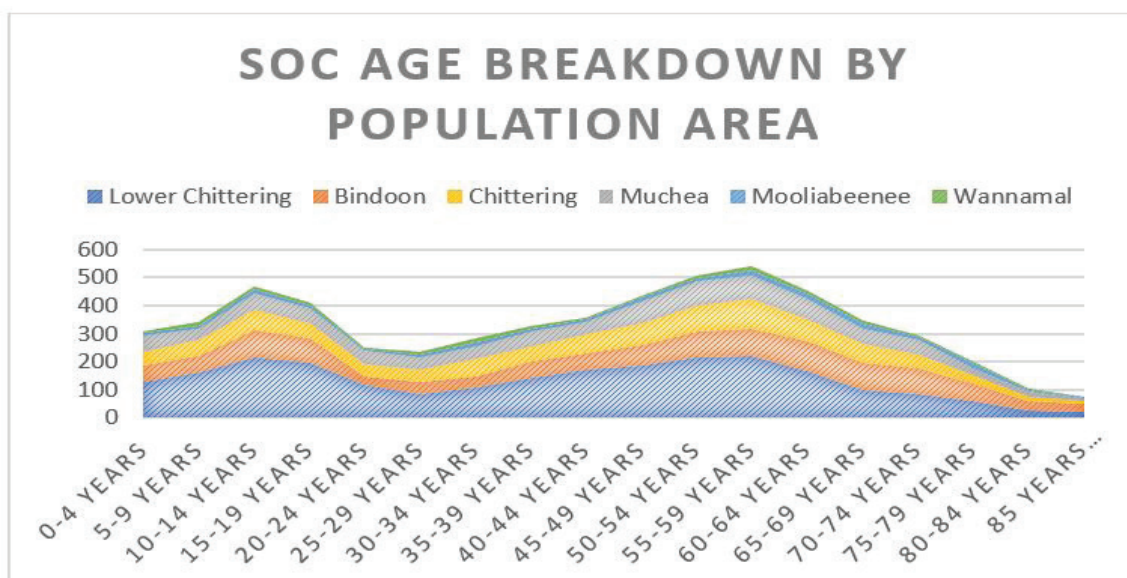
| | Population | Dwellings | Families | Avg. People per dwelling | Median Age |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lower Chittering | 2408 | 806 | 664 | 3.2 | 41 |
| Bindoon | 1215 | 581 | 334 | 2.4 | 49 |
| Chittering | 1034 | 457 | 312 | 2.7 | 44 |
| Muchea | 921 | 380 | 273 | 2.7 | 47 |
| Mooliabeenee | 213 | 113 | 54 | 2.6 | 52 |
| Wannamal | 134 | 65 | 33 | 2.7 | 40 |

Over the past five years, the largest growth in number of people has been in Lower Chittering, where now over 40% of the shire's population reside. It is expected to see Lower Chittering and Bindoon continue to grow, however due to the Wildflower Ridge Estate in Chittering, this area is set to have large growth over the coming five years.



Source: ABS 2022

As of the 2021 Census, the shire's population was 5,930 with a median age of 44, and increase from 43 in the 2016 census. The median age of Western Australia however increased from 36 to 38 over the same period, so we are not ageing as quickly as the rest of the state (ABS). The age profile of the shire is similar to that of Western Australia, with the exception of being overrepresented in the 55-64 and 65-74 age group and underrepresented in the 25-34 age group. The following graph shows the age breakdown for the whole shire and per population area.



Source: ABS 2022

The perspective of the Shire of Chittering's demographics change when the Shire of Chittering is compared to similar Wheatbelt Peri-Urban Growth Local Governments. The table below shows that the Shire of Chittering is relatively young and relatively wealthy:

| | Median Age | Avg. Weekly Income | Median Mortgage Repayments | Avg. Motor Vehicles per Household |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chittering (Shire) | 44 | 2044 | 2167 | 2.7 |
| Gingin | 50 | 1331 | 1700 | 2.3 |
| Dandaragan | 51 | 1305 | 1560 | 2.2 |
| Toodyay | 54 | 1272 | 1564 | 2.5 |
| Northam | 43 | 1316 | 1393 | 2.1 |
| York | 56 | 1127 | 1404 | 2.2 |

Source: ABS 2022

Comparisons against Western Australia and Australia also show that Chittering is a shire of families with above-average wealth:

| | Shire of Chittering | Western Australia | Australia |
|---|---|---|---|
| Family Households (%) | 83.2 | 71.2 | 70.5 |
| Single Persons Households (%) | 15.9 | 25.4 | 25.6 |
| Avg. Weekly Household Income ($) | 2044 | 1815 | 1746 |
| Median Monthly Mortgage Repayments ($) | 2167 | 1733 | 1721 |
| House with 4 or more Bedrooms | 63.3 | 44.7 | 34.8 |
| Households with more than 3 Motor Vehicles | 44.7 | 20.7 | 18.8 |

## Our Economy

### PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Of all the industries that operate in Chittering the three that are most prominent in size are Agriculture, Mining, and Construction.

Agriculture provides 19.9% of Chittering's Gross Regional Product (GRP) and crucially, employs just under a quarter of the shire's workforce at 23.5% of jobs. Chittering is host to broadacre farms in the north with wheat, beef and sheep production, and further southward towards the metropolitan boundary is more frequently home to boutique agriculture and horticulture with citrus, vegetable, honey production and nurseries more prevalent. Mining  processing and extractive industry provides 15.5% of Chittering's GRP and 6.8% of the jobs in region, whilst Construction follows closely behind with 15.4% of GRP and 14.2% of the workforce.

### EMERGING INDUSTRIES

### TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS

The transport and logistics industry is a growing regional strength to Chittering due to the completion of new road networks like the Tonkin Highway (accessing ports, the city and airports), the upgrade of the existing Great Northern Highway (to include RAV 10 triple-road train transport access) and the recent opening of the Muchea Industrial Park all offer a competitive advantage over surrounding regions in the state.

### TOURISM

Recognised as a key sector for growth in the region (Wheatbelt Development Commission), the tourism sector is made up of many industries. Every tourist-dollar spent is spread across multiple industries within the Shire. Over a quarter of Chittering's young adults (28%) are employed in this sector, an age demographic that is less prevalent than others in the Shire. Chittering's newfound closeness to Perth due to the recent construction of the Tonkin Highway Extension, its inherent agritourism, astrotourism and ecotourism potential, and an abundance of land compatible with tourism purposes put Chittering in strong position to grow in this sector into the future (Shire of Chittering COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan, RDA.

# How we developed this Plan

The Community Engagement for the Strategic Community Plans was undertaken through In-Person Community Forums, Feedback Sessions and Physical and Online Surveys.

Community Forums were run using an Appreciative Enquiry type format. Numbers attending varied and those who attended participated well. The forums invited community members to suggest ideas and aspirations they had for their community and the shire overall. As well, information was presented on the Shire at the moment and identification of changes likely to occur in the future. Ideas about the vision for the Shire were discussed as well as how to achieve the vision.

Three Focus Sessions were run with students at Bindoon Primary School and Immaculate Heart College as well as the Chittering Youth Krew. These sessions were run with these groups as they would otherwise be underrepresented in the feedback from the community. Questions were asked to elicit feedback of a similar nature to the community forums, though the sessions were of a more age appropriate nature.

Two surveys were conducted with the surveys being available both online and in printed form. The first survey asked the same questions that were posed at the Community Forums. This was because the questions were framed to develop a community vision and because the survey was released to give a chance to participate to those who could not attend the forums. The second survey was in relation to the shire services. It sought to attain feedback about satisfaction levels with current services and also levels of importance of the services. With limited resources, it is important that the shire can move resources into the areas that are both underperforming and are important to the community.

There was also a trial of a 'digital forum' using the shire's 'Have Your Say' Facebook page. The trial was to find a way to allow people to engage with each other, as happens in a Community Forum, but in a way that allows them to do it on their schedule. There was positive feedback for the concept but there was no feedback received through this method.

# The Community Vision

This has been developed based on clear messages from the community that they value the country lifestyle, their community connections and the natural landscape.

## *Vision: Prosperous and diverse rural communities living in harmony with nature*

- We will plan for our growing communities.

- We will value and look after our natural environment and habitat.

- We will advocate and partner with government and service providers ensuring future services are available in the local community.

Credit:  CLP Photography

# 1. Community

| **S1 Outcome:  Connected Communities** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **OBJECTIVE** | | **STRATEGIES** | |
| **S1.1** | **An Active and Supportive Community** | S1.1.1 | Events and groups to bring the community together and assist connections |
| | | S1.1.2 | Social hubs to bring the community together |
| | | S1.1.3 | Increased volunteer participation across the shire |

| **S2 Outcome:  A Safe and Healthy Community** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **OBJECTIVE** | | **STRATEGIES**<br>**Work with Government and Service Providers to:** | |
| **S1.2** | **A Safe and Healthy Community** | S1.2.1 | Improve education, health, disability and aged services |
| | | S1.2.2 | Increase the availability of emergency services |

# 2. Natural Environment

| **S2 Outcome: Sustainable Lifestyle** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **OBJECTIVE** | | **STRATEGIES** | |
| **S2.1** | **Sustainable Lifestyle** | **S2.1.1** | Encouraging development in keeping with the environment |
| | | **S2.1.2** | Improved waste management and recycling practices |
| | | **S2.1.3** | Limit impacts of mining, extractive industry and industrial development |
| **S2 Outcome: Environmental Protection** | | | |
| **S2.2** | **Protection of Life and Property** | **S2.2.1** | Ensure water security and quality |
| | | **S2.2.2** | Limit noise and light pollution |
| | | **S2.2.3** | Protection of wildlife and nature from pests, weeds, destruction and contamination |

### *Relevant Plans*

- Local Biodiversity Strategy
- Strategic Waste Management Plan[1]
- Bushfire Risk Management Plan (2016-2021)

[1] Required by the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007

# 3. Built Environment

| S3 Outcome: Retaining Rural Amenity | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **OBJECTIVE** | | **STRATEGIES** | |
| **S3.1** | **Retaining Rural Amenity** | S3.1.1 | Balance development with natural environment and open spaces |
| | | S3.1.2 | Planned development retaining rural amenity |

| S3 Outcome: Improving Infrastructure | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **OBJECTIVE** | | **STRATEGIES** | |
| **S3.2** | **Improving Infrastructure** | S3.2.1 | Maintenance and construction of safe roads |
| | | S3.2.2 | Townsites with attractive streetscapes |
| | | S3.2.3 | Provision of community facilities to allow sport and recreation participation |

## *Relevant Plans*

- Sport and Recreation Plan (2021-2031)
- Trails Network Masterplan (2021-2031)

# 4. Economy

## S4 Outcome: Economic Growth

| OBJECTIVE | | STRATEGIES | |
|---|---|---|---|
| S4.1 | Economic Growth | S4.1.1 | Support investment which stimulates sustainable industries, business and job growth |
| | | S4.1.2 | Support growth in the agricultural and horticultural industries |

## S4 Outcome: Local Business Growth

| OBJECTIVE | | STRATEGIES | |
|---|---|---|---|
| S4.2 | Local Business Growth | S4.2.1 | Encourage and support local businesses and new investments for the future |

## S4 Outcome: Increase Visitors

| OBJECTIVE | | STRATEGIES | |
|---|---|---|---|
| S4.3 | Increase Visitors | S4.3.1 | Support and promote accommodation options |
| | | S4.3.2 | Facilitate, promote and support visitation |
| | | S4.3.3 | Increase in nature based tourism and agritourism |

### *Relevant Plans*

- Economic Development Strategy (2021-2031)
- Chittering Tourism Strategy (2021-2031)
- Trails Network Masterplan (2021-2031)

# 5. Administration and Governance

## S5 Outcome: An Engaged Shire

| OBJECTIVE | | STRATEGIES | |
|---|---|---|---|
| S5.1 | An Engaged Shire | S5.1.1 | Continue to engage responsively with the community, using a variety of methods of inviting input |

## S5 Outcome: Accountable and Transparent Governance

| OBJECTIVE | | STRATEGIES | |
|---|---|---|---|
| S5.2 | Accountable and Transparent Governance | S5.2.1 | Become a leader in the areas of transparency, disclosure and public accountability |
| | | S5.2.2 | Responsible, sustainable and planned use of the Shire's financial resources |

### *Relevant Plans*

- Risk Management Plan[1]
- Business Continuity Plan[2]
- Local Emergency Management Arrangements (2018)[3]
- Local Recovery Plan[3]
- Local Planning Scheme[4]
- Local Planning Strategy 2019-2029[4]
- Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan[5]
- Record Keeping Plan[6]
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan[7]
- Municipal Heritage Inventory[8]
- Freedom of Information[9]

[1] Required by the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*
[2] Required by the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*
[3] Required by the *Emergency Management Act 2005*
[4] Required by the *Planning and Development Act 2005*
[5] Required by the *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*
[6] Required by the *State Records Act 2000*
[7] Required by the *Disability Services Act 1993*
[8] Required by the *Heritage of Western Australia 1990*
[9] Required by the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*