

Strategic Community Plan

Shire Priorities Quarterly Report – March 2026

Status Legend	
Future year action	●
Not yet commenced	●
In Progress	●
Completed	●

Our Community										
No	Community Priority	No	Actions	Role	Due				Status	Quarterly Update
					25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29		
1.1	Community connection and care for one another	A	Continue to advocate, support and value service delivery to our community	Partner Deliver	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	Services continue to be provided to the community, and advocacy on regional issues at state and federal level.
		B	Develop and implement a bike and footpath plan inclusive of ramp access at identified sites	Partner Deliver		✓	✓		●	Federal Active Transport Grant secured for upgrade and extension to town footpath network. For reviewing the existing bike plan, currently exploring grant opportunities.
		C	Investigate upgrade to community bus to include improved disability and wheelchair access.	Deliver		✓	✓		●	26/27 deliverable
		D	Investigate options for the continued provision of GP services	Deliver		✓			●	26/27 deliverable Investigated for 25/26 – Partnership with GMS concluded.
1.2	Support and maintain facilities that connect people, and promote an active and healthy community	A	Review and demonstrate progress of the Shire Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP)	Deliver	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	Review and development of new DAIP for 2025-2030 completed with community consultation. 2025-2026 Annual Report due in July 2026
		B	Investigate options for the purpose and role of the Town Hall and Lesser Hall.	Deliver	✓	✓			●	Not yet commenced.
		C	Develop a sport and recreation facilities plan for facility renewal and upgrades in partnership with clubs	Partner Deliver	✓	✓			●	Not yet commenced. Waiting for outcome of rPPP grant.
		D	Attract external funding to upgrade the Dowerin Aquatic Centre	Partner Deliver		✓	✓	✓	●	26/27 deliverable
		E	Maintain parks, gardens and open spaces in line with resourcing and community priorities	Deliver	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	Maintenance has continued in line with levels of service and community needs.
1.3	There are local activities and opportunities for young people	A	With community groups investigate and implement viable volunteer models	Facilitate		✓	✓	✓	●	26/27 deliverable
		B	Support the CRC to implement actions from the Youth Plan and community engagement strategy	Deliver	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	Youth engagement sessions delivered in partnership with Dowerin District High School and local service providers, with planning commenced for ongoing youth-led activities.
		C	Maintain a strong supportive relationship with the Dowerin District High School to encourage youth development	Partner	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	Maintained regular collaboration with the school to support youth development initiatives and participation in CRC programs i.e Money Mindset/Skate Park Update

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1.4	We care and support seniors	A	Investigate the 'Staying in Place' model	Partner	✓	✓			●	SiP model has come into effect from November 2025. DHC have implemented amendments.
		B	Continue to be a member of CEACA and advocate for external funding for housing	Partner Deliver	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	Transfer of land (12 Anderson Street) for CEACA housing project complete - tenders currently open through CEACA for the works.
		C	Continue delivery of the Home and Community Care service	Partner Deliver	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	Services and staffing expanded to enable growth.

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Our Economy										
No	Community Priority	No	Actions	Roles	Due				Status	Annual Update
					25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29		
2.1	Ensure the road network is safe and capable of the freight task	A	Develop a Road Management Program.	Partner Deliver	✓				●	Planned development for 2025/2026, MIP working with consultants to develop in depth plans with further discussion to take place at March Asset & Works Meeting.
		B	Develop and implement a Road Hierarchy.	Deliver	✓	✓	✓		●	Planned development for 2025/2026, MIP working with consultants to develop in depth plans with further discussion to take place at March Asset & Works Meeting
		C	Develop and implement a Gravel Source Strategy and Policy.	Deliver	✓	✓	✓		●	Ongoing implementation and community consultation.
		D	Enhance and maintain the road transport network.	Partner Deliver	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	Annual grant opportunities sought, with ongoing investigation of additional funding sources to expand works. Currently received additional grant funding through Main roads on the top of existing budgeted funding.
2.2	Facilitate growth of the local economy	A	Implement a Marketing Plan that promotes the lifestyle and opportunities within Dowerin	Deliver		✓	✓	✓	●	26/27 deliverable. Initial steps are undertaken by workign closely with WACHS in alignment with the strategy and concept of "Living Well in Wheatbelt". Public Health Plan review completed for Dowerin.
		B	Consult with the community and businesses to develop a community benefit framework for renewable energy and mining projects.	Deliver		✓	✓	✓	●	26/27 deliverable
		C	Develop a Main Street revitalisation strategy that promotes business opportunities, lifestyle and tourism	Advocate	✓	✓			●	Main Street Revitalisation Strategy has begun with Community Consultation taking place on 25 February 2026. Town Teams style activities to be explored in 2026.
		D	Collaboratively plan and deliver improvements to the main street, with assistance from the Dowerin Town Team.	Partner Deliver	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	Main Street Revitalisation Strategy has begun with Community Consultation taking place on 25 February 2026. Town Teams style activities to be explored in 2026.
2.3	Prioritise key economic drivers	A	Identify and coordinate residential and industrial land assembly and headworks.	Deliver		✓	✓	✓	●	26/27 deliverable Progress being made through Town Action Plan in conjunction with the Wheatbelt Development Commission.
		B	Attract external funding to repurpose the Old Bowling Greens	Partner Deliver		✓	✓	✓	●	26/27 deliverable, however a plan is sought around the full use of the land
		C	Collaborate with local groups and NEWROC to seek opportunities, funding and partnerships for the delivery of worker housing options.	Partner Deliver	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	Housing analysis and research completed by NEWROC. Funding application in progress.
		D	Advocate for solutions to mobile blackspots and reliable power to telecommunications.	Advocate	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	Continuous advocacy through Great Eastern Country Zone group.
2.4	Promote our experiences and attractions	A	Develop an events plan and associated marketing strategy for Dowerin.	Partner Deliver	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	Initial tourism and events marketing strategy implemented, with a focus on strengthening digital reach and consistent branding. Currently working on Tourism service packages for guided tours.
		B	Active participation in NEWTravel and Pioneer's Pathway to promote our attractions.	Partner Deliver	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	Continued active participation in NEWTravel and Pioneer's Pathway, with coordinated regional promotion of Dowerin attractions.
		C	Enhance the local visitor experience, particularly the area around Rusty, Town Entries, Minnivale campgrounds, Railway museum and heritage walk trail experiences.	Partner Deliver	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	Ongoing improvement and maintenance strategies in place, with funding being investigated for projects.

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Our Environment

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3.1	Improve waste management within the Shire	A	Work with NEWROC to improve local waste management infrastructure.	Partner Deliver	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	Potential opportunities for extending life at current refuse site being explored. Potential new sites identified if no other options available for Amery Refuse Site. MIP has developed plans for management of waste at current site, including covering waste and pushing up on days the site is open.
3.2	Protect and use natural resources sustainably	A	Efficient resource consumption and collection including water, energy and non-renewable resources.	Deliver	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	Ongoing studies and investigation to develop long term plan. A complete resource management plan is being included in the regional precinct grant, awaiting outcome.
		B	Manage weeds and pests, verge side vegetation and firebreaks.	Deliver	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	Continuous improvement strategies for weed management programs and verge maintenance. Corella culling program developed and policy implemented. Currently working on Paterson Curse management plan too.
		C	Support emergency volunteers and Bushfire chief and team and explore a CESM opportunity.	Deliver	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	Ongoing advocacy for CESM in partnership with neighbouring shires. LGGS grant being submitted in March. Options for communications through WhatsApp being looked into due to issues with residents receiving harvest and fire ban notifications through current system.

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Our Organisation										
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4.1	Deliver a high standard of governance and administration	A	Investigate the best option and budget for financial management systems for effective governance and administration of Council.	Deliver		✓	✓		●	26/27 deliverable
		B	Long term financial plans are implemented and monitored to assist with the timing and achievement of our goals.	Deliver	✓			✓	●	Current LTFP is being followed through annual budgets. A review of LTFP to be done in FY26/27.
		C	Implement and monitor the annual budget to support timely progress toward strategic goals	Deliver	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	Monthly budget reporting ongoing.
		D	Investigate shared services and resourcing through partnerships	Partner Deliver	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	Options explored when available, currently not sharing resources with partners or neighbouring shires.
		E	Undertake a community satisfaction survey every two years	Deliver		✓		✓	●	Survey undertaken February 2025. Next due in 2027.
		F	Continue to implement, monitor and report against the Integrated Planning and Reporting milestones.	Deliver	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	Quarterly reporting ongoing.
4.2	Keep the community informed and seek their feedback	A	Develop and implement and review a Community Engagement Strategy	Deliver	✓			✓	●	In progress
		B	Improve regular communication to inform our community of decisions, actions and upcoming activities.	Deliver	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	Increased communication with the community through social media use, SMS broadcasts and quarterly Council Connect newsletter.
4.3	Advocate effectively on behalf of our community	A	Develop a robust advocacy strategy and maximise the ability to advocate with other government departments, key ministers /cabinet, with members of Great Eastern Country Zone, North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils(NEWROC), and the WA Local Government Association, development commissions etc	Partner Advocate	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Progress through NEWROC, CEACA. Currently working on creating an advocacy strategy. - The Shire of Dowerin, as Chair of NEWROC for the two years, is actively leading advocacy initiatives. This includes active participation in the inaugural joint ROC forum, highlighting key priorities, developing a comprehensive advocacy strategy, maintaining consistent correspondence and meetings with Ministers and key stakeholders, and initiating collaboration with WALGA to strengthen joint advocacy efforts - Currently working on making submission through NEWROC on Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability.