



WHEATBELT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

**Adopted
August 2012**



An Australian Government Initiative



Wheatbelt Strategic Framework

Foreword



The Australian Government is committed to embedding a new approach to cooperative federalism that will deliver long-term benefits to regional Australia. This approach to regional development includes a commitment to listen, engage and respond to regional communities

and to support local solutions that stack up.

Regional Development Australia (RDA) committees have been charged with the important role of consulting with local stakeholders to determine the key priorities for their region and the pathway to achieving them. They know the strengths of their region; they know where the opportunities lie; and they are best-placed to identify the key priorities for the region. Their regional plans are key regional documents that are referred to nationally.

The *Wheatbelt Strategic Framework* builds on this approach. The strategic framework was developed collaboratively by RDA Wheatbelt and the Wheatbelt

Development Commission due to the regional level recognition that greater alignment between all levels of government is needed.

This strategic framework takes into consideration the importance of a holistic approach to sustainable development of the region by outlining economic, social and environmental strategies and actions. I applaud RDA Wheatbelt and the Wheatbelt Development Commission, which have drawn on their collective local knowledge to ensure the region has a common strategic framework as a basis for influencing policy direction and implementing initiatives that will contribute to the sustainability of the region.

The Wheatbelt is a great place to live, work, visit and invest. I encourage the 43 local Government authorities and other key stakeholders in the Wheatbelt region to support and adopt the framework. This is your strategic regional plan. Through a holistic and unified approach, communities will be better equipped to address the service delivery and development needs of their region.

The Hon Simon Crean MP

Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government; Minister for the Arts-



The Wheatbelt Development Commission and Regional Development Australia - Wheatbelt are to be congratulated on achieving a joint strategic framework that will guide planning, project prioritisation and investment into the future for the Wheatbelt.

The Wheatbelt Strategic Framework reflects the importance of local decision making and demonstrates

how working together will achieve a stronger focus and direction for regional development in Western Australia's Wheatbelt.

It provides a high level framework in which a myriad of planning activity at a local, regional and state level can be 'captured' and coordinated to deliver an integrated development strategy for the Wheatbelt region.

I encourage all key stakeholders to be involved in the ongoing development and review of the framework and its underlying objectives and strategies.

Hon Brendon Grylls MLA

Minister for
Regional Development



Wheatbelt Strategic Framework

A strategic framework for the Wheatbelt region was developed collaboratively by RDA Wheatbelt (RDAW) and the Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC) drawing on their collective local knowledge and understanding of the region. The principle aim of this is to ensure that key stakeholder's in the region have a common strategic framework as a basis for influencing policy direction and implementing initiatives that will contribute to the sustainability of the region. It is also hoped that through a shared understanding and common framework greater collaboration and cooperation amongst stakeholders will be achieved.

It is not anticipated that RDAW and/or the WDC will be responsible for the delivery of all projects outlined in this plan; rather there are numerous stakeholders that through key partnerships will be involved in the delivery of initiatives.

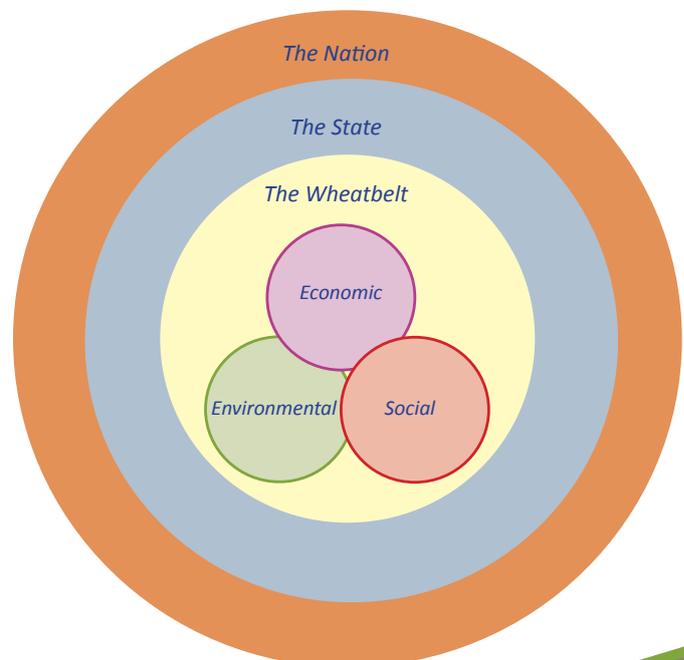
RDAW and WDC's primary role in many of these initiatives will be to:

1. Advocate these initiatives and our region to Government
2. Coordinate and facilitate collaboration on initiatives across the relevant stakeholders
3. Assist communities to shape projects that align with the priorities and objectives outlined in this plan
4. Raise awareness of programs, initiatives and legislation that will impact on regional projects
5. Revisit the planning process

RDAW and WDC also recognise the importance of exploring beyond our regional boundaries when looking for solutions and opportunities. Therefore a proactive approach would be taken in creating opportunities to work collaboratively with adjoining regions on initiatives that address Wheatbelt priorities and maximise regional outcomes.

This strategic framework takes into consideration the importance of a holistic approach to sustainable development of the region by outlining economic, social and environmental strategies and actions. Whilst each of these components is dealt with separately it is acknowledged that they are intrinsically linked and therefore cannot be considered in isolation.

Figure: Holistic Strategic Focus



2011 – 2015 Vision



“**The Wheatbelt:** A ‘possibility belt’ that grows as a result of vibrant and diverse people, industry and environment (built and natural).”

Critical Success Factors

Key to achieving our regional objectives will be:

- Innovative and devolved decision making and resourcing
- Internal and external recognition of the region’s comparative advantages
- Development that results in social, environmental and economic benefit
- Strong collaboration that adds value to the Wheatbelt’s diversified development
- Targeted strategies to meet unique sub regional context – one size does not fit all

Key Messages

- The Wheatbelt is the State’s third most populous region and experiencing growth
 - The Wheatbelt is fundamentally important to the State’s development
 - The Wheatbelt’s comparative advantage is it’s:
 - Proximity to the capital city, Perth
 - Safe communities with considerable social capital
 - Clean, open space and skies
 - Land availability and diversity
 - Community infrastructure
 - History of innovation
 - National leader in export food production
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Strategic Focus

Vibrant Economy

A diversified and adaptive economic base building on the regions assets and aligned with state, national and international opportunity

Liveable Communities

Innovative, safe, healthy and resilient communities where services and infrastructure reflect the needs and aspirations of residents and compliment the Wheatbelt's unique characteristics

Valued Natural Amenity

The Wheatbelt's unique natural amenity is valued as an asset for social, cultural and economic development for current and future generations.

Objectives

1. Skilled workers of all ages are attracted and retained to meet the needs of the region and the state.
2. Opportunities for marginalised Wheatbelt residents result in economic independence.
3. The region has a diverse economic base that capitalises on the Wheatbelt's attributes.
4. Key strategic infrastructure is identified, maintained and where necessary new investments are made.

Objectives

1. Communities innovate, cooperate and value diversity - better networked and inclusive communities.
2. A collaborative and strategic approach across relevant stakeholders ensures health, education, youth/children's services reflect the needs of current and future Wheatbelt residents.
3. Diverse cultural, sport and recreational activities contribute to community well being.
4. Community amenity is well designed to enhance employment, lifestyle opportunities and community safety.

Objectives

1. Climate change opportunities are pursued, and risk minimised.
2. Diverse natural assets are valued and managed to protect biodiversity with compatible land use.
3. Water management is improved for the benefit of community amenity and industry development.
4. Renewable natural resources are employed in a sustainable, profitable, and productive manner.

Governance Focus

Planning and Partnerships

- Innovation and professionalism of developmental partners drives sustainable development
- Key partnerships (across communities, agencies and all levels of government) are based on proactive and adaptive management resulting in ownership and commitment to agreed priorities in a changing environment
- Integrated planning results in investment in strategic projects
- Decision makers value and use local knowledge and input, and understand and account for unique Wheatbelt characteristics.

Marketing and Perceptions

- The Wheatbelt is seen internally and externally as an ideal place to live, work, invest and visit
- The Wheatbelt's contribution to the Nation and the State's economic, social and environmental well being is understood
- To meet market demand, communities embrace innovation, professionalism and diversity





Vibrant Economy

Vision:

A diversified and adaptive economic base building on the regions assets and aligned with state, national and international opportunity.

Objective 1:

Skilled workers of all ages are attracted and retained to meet the needs of the region and the state.

Strategic Focus	Current Regional Initiatives	Action Required	Stakeholders
<p>Wheatbelt Workforce Strategy that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted internal and external marketing of the region to highlight diverse lifestyle and work opportunities and support structures/resources to match queries with opportunity 	<p>1. Heartlands WA (Inc) – On-line Marketing Portal Strategy</p>	<p>1. Regional marketing strategy that includes at a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A social media marketing campaign - “Why I love living, working, investing and visiting the Wheatbelt” Resettlement strategy to promote diverse inward migration (e.g. backpackers, migrant workers, students, city dwellers, fly in fly out workforce etc) and community support for these migrants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heartlands WA Inc Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC) RDA Wheatbelt
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross industry training 	<p>1. Wheatbelt Employment Strategy (Directions) 2. Wheatbelt Workforce Development Plan (Department of Training & Workforce Development) 3. Educations, Skills & Jobs Plan (DEEWR)</p>	<p>1. Finalisation of the Wheatbelt Workforce Development Plan and subsequent work to develop plans on a sub-regional level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RDA Wheatbelt WDC Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations (DEEWR) Department of Training & Workforce Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovative and flexible labour hire models 	<p>1. Wheatbelt Employment Strategy (Directions)</p>	<p>1. Component of the Wheatbelt Employment Strategy to focus on flexible labour hire models to suit industry and the Wheatbelt workforce requirements (Eg. Part time work and tele-work is attractive to aged, mothers etc) 2. Promote greater trade and apprenticeship opportunities and assistance for young people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RDA Wheatbelt WDC Directions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved standard and diversity of accommodation 	<p>1. Wheatbelt Infrastructure Planning – Regional LGA workers accommodation strategies, Avon Housing Trust</p>	<p>1. Identify priority accommodation needs at a regional and local level and facilitate investment in and delivery of these needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDC Local Government Dept of Housing Landcorp
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing partnership with industry to provide for their needs 	<p>1. Wheatbelt Workforce Development Planning</p>	<p>1. Engagement of industry in workforce development planning processes to ensure their needs are considered</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RDA Wheatbelt WDC DEEWR Department of Training & Workforce Development Directions



Vibrant Economy

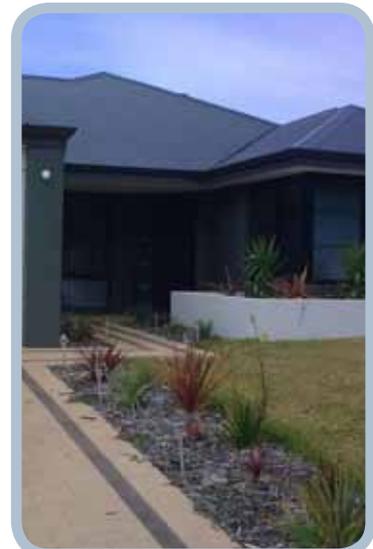
Vision:

A diversified and adaptive economic base building on the regions assets and aligned with state, national and international opportunity.

Objective 1:

Skilled workers of all ages are attracted and retained to meet the needs of the region and the state.

Strategic Focus	Current Regional Initiatives	Action Required	Stakeholders
<p>Wheatbelt Workforce Strategy continued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying and removing policy inhibitors to workforce attraction 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing advocacy at state and national level 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing advocacy at state and national level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RDA Wheatbelt WDC Heartlands WA Inc
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Childcare in the region enables greater participation in the labour force. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing advocacy at state and national level DEEWR Wheatbelt Early Childhood Education and Child Care Industry Roundtable 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing advocacy at state and national level to highlight the need for different childcare models for rural and regional areas Childcare planning to identify appropriate models that suit the Wheatbelt context 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RDA Wheatbelt WDC DEEWR Department for Communities





Vibrant Economy

Vision:

A diversified and adaptive economic base building on the regions assets and aligned with state, national and international opportunity.

Objective 2:

Opportunities for marginalised Wheatbelt residents result in economic independence.

Strategic Focus	Current Regional Initiatives	Action Required	Stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize and utilize the skills and knowledge of indigenous Wheatbelt residents 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> WDC Employment Support Strategy CANWA Engagement and Governance Strategy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the recommendations of the Wheatbelt Indigenous Services Assessment (WISA) Compile a database of skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDC Department of Indigenous Affairs Local Aboriginal groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-ordination and communication across communities, families and agencies 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> WDC Employment Support Strategy Wheatbelt Regional Officers Groups (Northam, Narrogin, Merredin) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Continued and improved engagement with the Wheatbelt Aboriginal community Strengthened relationship with the Department of Indigenous Affairs and FAHCSIA's Indigenous Coordination Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDC RDA Wheatbelt Wheatbelt NRM Indigenous Coordination Centre - FAHCSIA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-employment and post employment support and access to training opportunities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> WDC Employment Support Strategy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted skills development and employment strategies to encourage greater participation from currently under represented demographic groups in the workforce Up-skilling and training delivered through alternative means 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directions C Y O'Connor Institute KEEDAC Max Employment DEEWR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnering with new and existing businesses in the region 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> WDC Employment Support Strategy South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) Indigenous Coordination Centre (FAHCSIA) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Explore and support Indigenous business opportunities, particularly those that support the heritage and environmental significance of Indigenous culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Indigenous Affairs Indigenous Coordination Centre SWALSC WDC RDA Wheatbelt Wheatbelt NRM

Objective 3:

The region has a diverse economic base that capitalises on the Wheatbelt's attributes.

Strategic Focus	Current Regional Initiatives	Action Required	Stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry innovation, with a focus on climate change adaptation, renewable energy and aviation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Wagin Cogeneration Project Narrogin Integrated Wood Processing Plant Clean Energy Futures 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Wheatbelt Aviation Strategy Independent Study of alternative energy opportunities for the Wheatbelt – cost benefit of different technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDC RDA Wheatbelt Local Government Department of Planning



Vibrant Economy

Objective 3 (continued):

Strategic Focus	Current Regional Initiatives	Action Required	Stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A multi faceted economic development strategy for the region 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Regional & Remote Economic Development Training Program (Economic Development Aust.) Wheatbelt Sub Regional Economic Planning (WDC) resulting in Wheatbelt Regional Blueprint Central East Tourism Project Local Economic Development Planning activity (various Local Governments) Department of Regional Development & Lands, Wheatbelt Regional Centre's Development Program (Super Towns) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive and integrated Economic Development Planning at a sub-regional and local level within the Wheatbelt that leads to a Wheatbelt Infrastructure blueprint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDC RDA Wheatbelt Local Government Department of Planning Landcorp Regional Tourism Groups Regional Development Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value adding and adaptive agriculture 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> National Food Plan Agrifood 2025+: The Future Way 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Recognition of the importance of food production and food security to our region and the Nation Strategic investment to secure the future of food production in the Wheatbelt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Agriculture & Food WA - (DAFWA) Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (DAFF)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry clusters/ precincts 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> DAFWA Strategic Horticulture Precincts project Department of Regional Development & Lands, Wheatbelt Regional Centre's Development Program (Super Towns) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Planning for optimal utilisation of existing Industrial precincts in the Wheatbelt and investment in infrastructure to accommodate expanding industries (eg processing and packaging locally grown produce) Market land availability for purposes such as defence training, school camps, detention facilities, environmental education etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Planning WA State Planning Commission Local Government DAFWA RDA Wheatbelt WDC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embrace the knowledge economy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> National Digital Economy Strategy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Wheatbelt Digital Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RDA Wheatbelt WDC NBN Co Local Government Department of Broadband, Communication & the Digital Economy (DBCDE) Department of Commerce WA (Digital Economy Branch)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growing small to medium enterprises (SME's) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Small Business Development Corporations – Biz Fit program Wheatbelt Business Network 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Service delivery reform for small business support in regional WA Heartlands WA – Business Connect Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small Business Development Corporation Chamber of Commerce & Industry Enterprise Connect RDA Wheatbelt WDC Wheatbelt Chambers of Commerce Heartlands WA Inc
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic development builds on the significant heritage values of the region 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Wheatbelt Heritage Register Avondale Discovery Farm New Norcia Tourism Heritage Activity 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Economic development planning for the region recognizes heritage values and identifies opportunities for the development of heritage assets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Trust (WA) Heritage Council WA Local Government New Norcia Benedictine Community WDC Shire of Beverley Regional Tourism Groups



Vision:

A diversified and adaptive economic base building on the regions assets and aligned with state, national and international opportunity.

Objective 4:

Key strategic infrastructure is identified, maintained and where necessary new investments are made.

Strategic Focus	Current Regional Initiatives	Action Required	Stakeholders
<p>Key infrastructure investment in the region.</p> <p><i>Specific investment focus on the following:</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wheatbelt Infrastructure Planning Process 2. Wheatbelt Regional Centre's Development Program (Super Towns) 3. Wheatbelt Regional Planning Advisory Committee 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sub regional infrastructure investment blueprints 2. Advocacy to ensure small communities and local government are not negatively impacted by cost shifting and changes to funding models. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RDA Wheatbelt • WDC • Local Government • WA State Planning Commission • Department of Regional Development and Lands
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telecommunications (mobile coverage, Broadband, digital TV & radio, NBN) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regional Mobile Communications Project (Royalties for Regions) 2. State Telecommunications Needs Assessment (CCIWA) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wheatbelt Digital Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WDC • RDA Wheatbelt • DBCDE • Department of Commerce • NBN Co. • Local Government
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport – aviation, rail and road for freight and passenger services 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Road Planning (Department of Transport) 2. State Freight Planning Strategy (Department of Transport) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wheatbelt Aviation Strategy 2. Assess opportunities to improve the frequency and efficiency of rail for passenger services 3. Wheatbelt Freight Strategy, including the review of the social and economic impacts of the Tier 3 rail closure on Local Governments and other stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Transport • Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) • Local Government • Department of Planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diverse accommodation stock (worker, aged, tourism, family) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wheatbelt Infrastructure Planning 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wheatbelt Accommodation Strategy with a focus on multi-purpose housing to meet the diverse accommodation needs in the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WDC • Department of Housing • Local Government
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable utilities (power, water, sewerage) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wheatbelt Infrastructure Planning 2. WA State Governments Office of Energies Strategic Energy Initiative - Energy 2031 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Energising the Wheatbelt – alternative energy creation, transmission and distribution models 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WDC • Local Government • Relevant Utilities





Liveable Communities

Vision:

Innovative, safe, healthy communities where services and infrastructure reflect the needs and aspirations of residents and compliment unique Wheatbelt characteristics.

Objective 1:

Communities innovate, co-operate and value diversity – better networked and inclusive communities.

Strategic Focus	Current Regional Initiatives	Action Required	Stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership and innovation capacity building 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Community Resource Centre's Department of Regional Development & Lands Community Capacity Building and Regional Leadership scoping study Various regional stakeholder groups (eg Wheatbelt Senior Managers Forum and Merredin Interagency Meetings) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a Wheatbelt Leadership Network Profiling innovative leaders, projects, organizations and/or communities - Wheatbelt Champions Build governance and administration capacity in community groups particularly Aboriginal & Multi-cultural community organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RDA Wheatbelt WDC Local Government Community Arts Network of WA (CANWA) - specifically their Governance project
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valuing provision of quality service/s and products 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Wheatbelt Business Network (WBN) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Business product and service development strategy focused on customer service and e-business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small Business Centers WBN Heartlands WA Inc Chambers of Commerce
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Government collaboration 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Local Government Reform Country Local Government Regional Infrastructure Planning Annual Wheatbelt Local Government conference 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Local Government endorsement of regional strategic framework as the foundation for fostering greater regional collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Local Government WDC RDA Wheatbelt WALGA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network model of service delivery that acknowledges each towns comparative advantage 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Southern Inland Health Initiative Department of Education WA restructure and School Clustering 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Through Strategic Regional Planning processes, identify opportunities for improved service delivery through better networked and connected communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Planning WDC RDA Wheatbelt Local Government Health Department Education Department Department of Children's Services





Liveable Communities

Vision:

Innovative, safe, healthy communities where services and infrastructure reflect the needs and aspirations of residents and compliment unique Wheatbelt characteristics.

Objective 2:

A collaborative and strategic approach across relevant stakeholders ensures health, education, aged and youth/ children's services reflect the needs of current and future Wheatbelt residents.

Strategic Focus	Current Regional Initiatives	Action Required	Stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better access to services through links between communities (including telecommunications and public transport) and a greater balance of service delivery across the whole region 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Health MOU Group Aged Care Audit Re-alignment C Y O'Connor Institute Education restructure Southern Inland Health Initiative State Telecommunications Needs Assessment Wheatbelt Youth Report Medicare Local - South West 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Wheatbelt Digital Action Plan State and Regional Higher Education Strategy Wheatbelt Aged Care Strategy (aligned with existing LGA strategies) Wheatbelt Youth Network & Strategy Planning to ensure education and health service delivery and infrastructure meet the needs of the region and enable access to high quality education and health care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CY O'Connor Institute RDA Wheatbelt WDC Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations (DEEWR) Western Australian Country Health Service (WACHS) Department for Communities Department of Education WA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy and funding models are flexible and meet unique Wheatbelt needs 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> RDC Higher Education Strategy Health MOU Group 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing advocacy at State and Federal level for funding and policy that meets unique Wheatbelt needs Conduct a regional needs assessment of health services, with a focus on funding and policy models to determine appropriate strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDC RDA Wheatbelt Southern Inland Health Initiative Medicare Local - South West
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive childcare services that meet the needs of a regional context 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> R4R Regional Childcare Grants program (Interim measure) Wheatbelt Early Childhood Planning Tool Kit 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Wheatbelt Childcare Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DEEWR (Federal) Department for Communities (State) WDC RDA Wheatbelt
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater collaboration amongst service providers in the region 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Senior and Regional Managers forums (eg Wheatbelt Senior Managers Forum and Merredin Interagency Meetings) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening of existing regional stakeholder groups and formation of dedicated steering committees to address high priority issues for the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDC RDA Wheatbelt





Liveable Communities

Vision:

Innovative, safe, healthy communities where services and infrastructure reflect the needs and aspirations of residents and compliment unique Wheatbelt characteristics.

Objective 3:

Diverse cultural, sport and recreational activities contribute to community well being.

Strategic Focus	Current Regional Initiatives	Action Required	Stakeholders
<p>Strategic Sport and Recreational Plan for the region that focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collocation of facilities 	<p>1. Wheatbelt Regional Centre's Development Program (Super Towns)</p>	<p>1. Wheatbelt Active Communities Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Sport & Recreation RDA Wheatbelt and WDC through funding priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved water harvesting and reuse to maintain sporting ovals, community gardens, etc 	<p>1. Wagin Bio-energy Project – includes desalinating water for use on community ovals, etc</p>	<p>1. Wheatbelt Water Strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Water Council Water Corporation Department of Water WA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better utilization, co-ordination and marketing across facilities and communities 	<p>1. Community Resource Centre Network</p>	<p>1. Better networked communities – facilitate a greater understanding of facilities available in communities and coordinate compatible utilization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Governments Community Resource Centre's
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to a greater range of recreational activities, particularly in art and culture 	<p>1. Community Arts Network of WA (CANWA) – various projects</p> <p>2. Wheatbelt Youth Leadership Development network</p>	<p>1. Wheatbelt Culture/Arts Plan that values the regions blended heritage (both Indigenous and European)</p> <p>2. Wheatbelt Active Communities Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CANWA Local Governments Department of Sport & Recreation Department for Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts & Sport

Objective 4:

Community amenity is well designed to enhance employment, lifestyle opportunities and community safety.

Strategic Focus	Current Regional Initiatives	Action Required	Stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Devolved decision making and resourcing ensures that Government policy decisions account for unique Wheatbelt circumstance 	<p>1. Advocacy for policy and services that account for the unique Wheatbelt circumstance</p>	<p>1. Ongoing Advocacy for policy and services that account for the unique Wheatbelt circumstance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RDA Wheatbelt WDC Government Departments and Agencies at all levels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning and built forms are designed to service unique current and future regional demographics and social issues (including safe communities and volunteering) 	<p>1. Local Emergency Management Plans</p> <p>2. Local Government Community Safety & Crime Prevention Plans</p> <p>3. Age Friendly Communities funding</p> <p>4. Central Eastern Wheatbelt Aged Care Alliance</p>	<p>1. Wheatbelt Family Services Audit</p> <p>2. Age Friendly Community Planning</p> <p>3. Community Safety & Crime Prevention Plans (where they don't currently exist)</p> <p>4. Volunteering support and capacity building strategies</p> <p>5. Maintaining and developing townscapes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Government WA Police Office of Crime Prevention Community Resource Centre's Department for Communities RDA Wheatbelt WDC Silverchain FESA Department of Health



Valued Natural Amenity

Vision:

The Wheatbelt's unique natural amenity is valued as an asset that supports social, cultural and economic development for current and future generations.¹

Objective 1:

Climate change opportunities are pursued, and risk minimized.

Strategic Focus	Current Regional Initiatives	Action Required	Stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimize vulnerability to climate change through mitigation and adaptation strategies 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> DAFWA's Climate Change Response Strategy 2010 Clean Energy Futures Wheatbelt NRM Plan 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Wheatbelt Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Managing impact across economic, social and environmental sectors - Seizing opportunity Create a community environment education program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wheatbelt NRM Northern Agricultural Catchment Council (NACC) RDA Wheatbelt WDC DAFWA Department of Climate Change & Energy Efficiency (DCCEE)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify industry opportunities for climate change including carbon storage opportunities and resilient agricultural practices 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Clean Energy Futures Package Land based alternative energy development (oil mallees) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate awareness of the Carbon Farming initiative and promote opportunities for Wheatbelt businesses Innovative waste management that optimizes use of green bin waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DAFWA Wheatbelt NRM NACC DCCEE

Objective 2:

Diverse natural assets are valued and managed to protect biodiversity with compatible land use.

Strategic Focus	Current Regional Initiatives	Action Required	Stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well resourced community NRM groups supported to deliver best practice solutions appropriate to context 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> DAFWA Dry Seasons Strategy Wheatbelt NRM – biodiversity, sustainable agriculture and water programs Wheatbelt NRM Plan 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate greater awareness of the biodiversity value in the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wheatbelt NRM RDA Wheatbelt WDC NACC Department of Environment and Conservation Department of Water DAFWA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry development for the sustainable use of natural resources (land, water, energy) is supported The regions unique natural assets are managed, conserved and valued 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> WA Planning Commissions Wheatbelt Land Use Planning Strategy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive land use development strategy that ensures the regions natural resources are preserved and used optimally in industry developments Ensure adequate protective fencing structures exist and are combined with a strategy for feral animal control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WA Planning Commission Wheatbelt NRM NACC



¹ *The Valued Natural Amenity section of the Framework was developed with assistance from Wheatbelt NRM and has been endorsed by their board.*



Valued Natural Amenity

Vision:

The Wheatbelt's unique natural amenity is valued as an asset that supports social, cultural and economic development for current and future generations.

Objective 3:

Water management is improved for the benefit of community amenity and industry development without perverse environmental impact.

Strategic Focus	Current Regional Initiatives	Action Required	Stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved co-ordination across disparate strategies ensures water security through improved water use, efficiency, harvesting, and storage 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Water Boards Wheatbelt NRM water programs 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Wheatbelt Water Strategy that focuses on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Optimal water utilization - Options for investment in new technology, particularly saline water - Recycling and reticulation - Grey water for industry - Regenerating aquifers - Water harvesting and storage Exploration of alternative industry options from re-use of treated saline water Strategic water reserves (storage) to be identified along scheme supply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Water Council Water Corporation Department of Water WA Local Government's Wheatbelt NRM NACC Research & Development Organisations

Objective 4:

Renewable natural resources are employed in a sustainable, profitable, and productive manner.

Strategic Focus	Current Regional Initiatives	Action Required	Stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support sustainable alternative energy solutions that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solve Wheatbelt and state energy supply issues - Create industry opportunity - Utilise agricultural and industry by-products - Support the utilisation of unproductive agricultural land for alternative energy purposes 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Wagin co-generation Project Narrogin Integrated Wood Processing Plant Energising the Wheatbelt Collgar & Emu Downs wind farms WA State Governments Office of Energies Strategic Energy Initiative - Energy 2031 UWA/WDC Solar Power Generation in the Wheatbelt report Wheatbelt NRM sustainable agriculture program DAFWA dry season strategy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Independent analysis of viable, sustainable alternative energy options for the Wheatbelt Region Facilitate the development of sustainable alternative energy options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDC RDA Wheatbelt WA Office for Energy Wheatbelt NRM NACC DAFWA DCCEE





An Australian Government Initiative



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