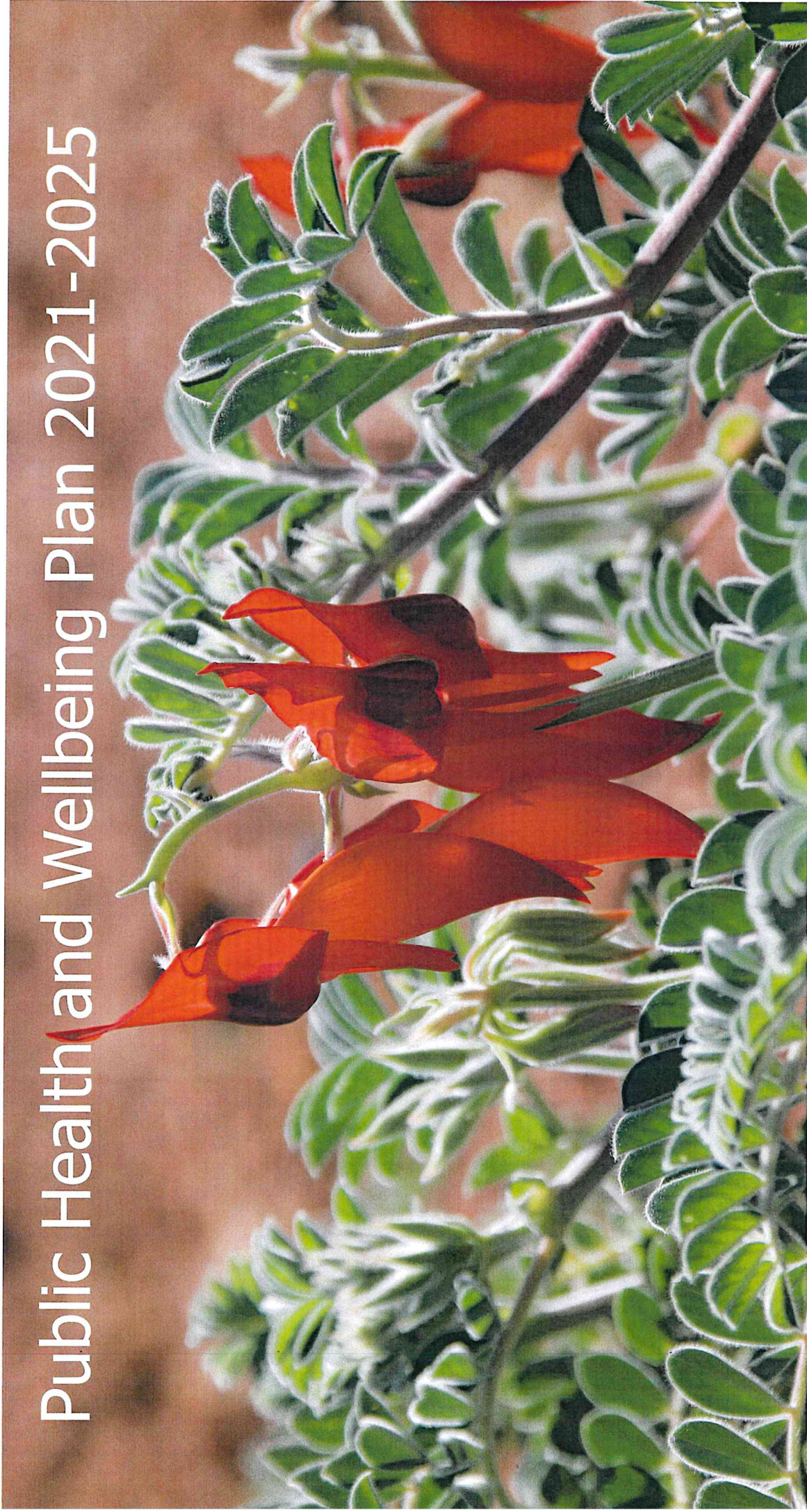




LAVERTON
Discover the Outback Spirit

Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025



Contents

Title Page	1
Contents	2
Introduction	3
Plan Implementation	4
Our Current Health Role	5
Snapshot of the Health of Goldfields Residents	6
Key results from the Laverton Public Health and Wellbeing Survey	7
Integrating the Public Health Vision into the Strategic Community Plan	8
The Public Health Vision added to the Strategic Community Plan	9
Better Health - Community and Public Health Outcomes	10
Conclusion	12
The Way Forward	13



Acknowledgement of Country

The Shire of Laverton acknowledges the Wangkatja People, the Traditional Owners of the country within the Council's boundaries.

Introduction

Laverton Shire

We are proud to present the Shire of Laverton Public Health Plan. This Plan is designed to be both a stand-alone plan and also one that influences the periodic revisions of the Shire of Laverton Strategic Community Plan 2016 – 2026.

Each local government in Western Australia is required by the *Public Health Act 2016* to maintain and enhance the health, wellbeing and safety of all of its citizens and align with the *State Public Health Plan for Western Australia 2019 – 2024*. Incorporating the outcomes and strategies of the Public Health Plan into Council's Strategic Community Plan, will ensure the Public Health Plan will remain relevant to the community needs and keep pace with the ever-changing demographics of the local community.

While the process of the development of the Plan has been taken over a four year period, some of the delay has been caused by the inability to travel to the Goldfields during the COVID 19 lockdown during 2020 and the need to consult with nearby shires and trying to coordinate information sessions through a combined consultation process.

In a practical sense, it was decided to consult with all communities in the local government district by an electronic survey process using social media and the website. In the Shire of Laverton, all results were received from electronic submissions.

We would like you to enjoy reading this plan as we look forward to working collaboratively with the community to continuously improve the public health outcomes of all of our citizens.

Patrick Hill

Shire President

August 2021

Peter Naylor

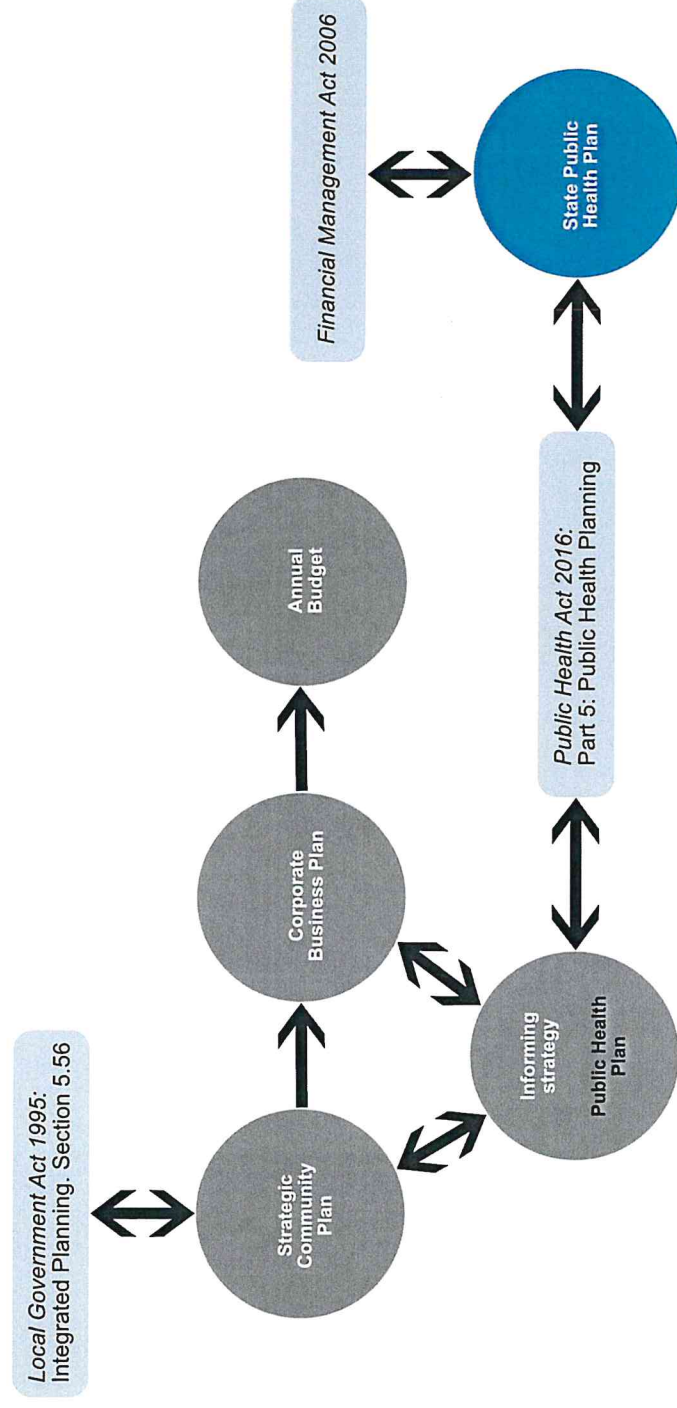
Chief Executive Officer



Plan Implementation

The State Public Health Plan is a stand-alone plan and each local government is required to create its own public health plan, which in turn, is to be incorporated into the Council's Strategic Community Plan. The Strategic Community Plan connects with Council's Business Plan which is funded by each local government through its revenue stream. Each local government is then required to prepare and adopt a local government public health plan.

The diagram below provides a pictorial representation of how this is to be achieved.



Linkages between Part 5: Public Health Planning of the *Public Health Act 2016* and Local Government Planning for the future requirements under section 5.56 of the *Local Government Act 1995*



Our Current Health Role

The Shire of Laverton currently supports the promotion of public health outcomes through its community.

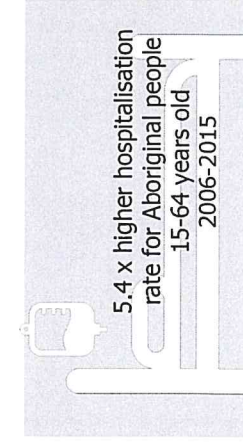
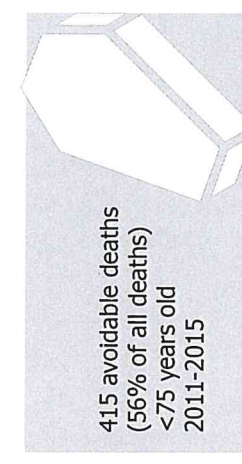
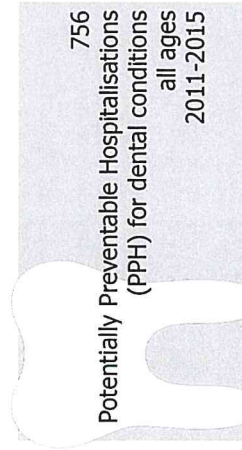
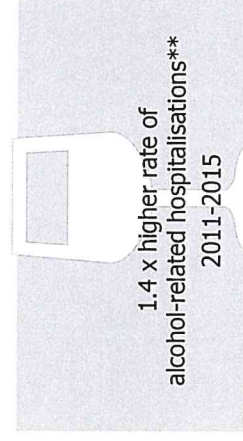
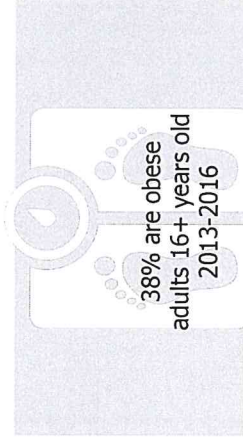
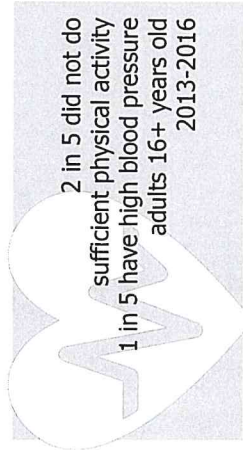
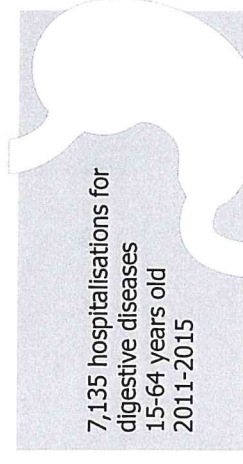
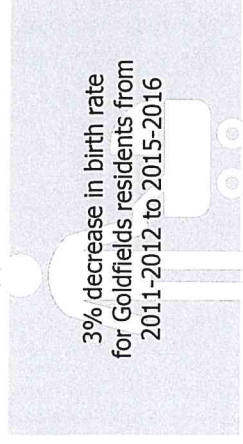
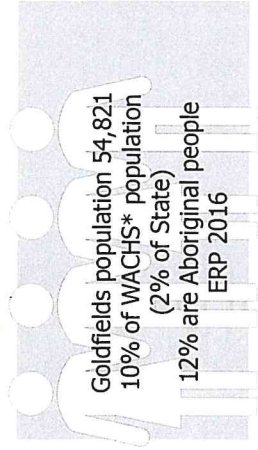


These may be explained in more detail in the core business described here:

- **Infrastructure and property services** including provision of local roads, footpaths, drainage, waste collection and management.
- **Environmental Health Services** to prevent and control environmental health hazards, emissions, communicable diseases and vector-borne diseases. To help promote prevention and reduction of the incidence of alcohol and other drug and tobacco health impacts, noise and air pollution, and to maintain water and food quality.
- **Community Services** to assist with provision of a doctor, accessible dental care and other relevant health and wellbeing interventions, as well as youth and aged care services that promote enhanced mental and physical health outcomes.
- **Cultural facilities and services** such as libraries, art galleries, places of historic importance, and museums which display associations to local indigenous groups and that encourage community participation.
- **Provision of recreational and Community facilities.**
- **Building services, planning and development control** including inspections, licensing, certification and enforcement.
- **Administration of facilities** such as airport, cemetery, aquatic centre, community recreation and resource centres, and provision of waste management.
- **Local Government Health Law Enforcement, Ranger and Emergency Services.**



Snapshot of the Health of Goldfields Residents



*Western Australian Country Health Services

**Compared with the WA State average



THE RESIDENCE OF LAVERTON SPEAK

Key results from the Laverton Health and Wellbeing Survey

AS THINGS ARE NOW

The most serious mental & social health issues in our community are:

- Bullying at school, work, or home
- Violence in the home
- Alcoholism
- Depression
- Anxiety

The worst health risks in the community are from:

- Tobacco/cigarette smoking
- Being overweight
- Sniffing volatile substances

The sport & rec facilities we use most:

- Swimming Pool
- Gymnasium

The top eight volunteering activities we do:

- Youth development
- Health
- Aged Citizens
- Corporate volunteering
- Charities
- Keeping the community safe
- Community groups & service
- Public events

The things which worry us most about COVID-19:

- Our families' future finances
- Our families' future health

I enjoy interacting with my neighbours (50%)

I feel like my life has a sense of purpose (25%)

I feel like I belong in my local community (20%)

I know where to get help when I need it (75%)

There is strong community spirit in Laverton (40%)

I am proud of the community where I live (25%)

not many people

Peaceful and quiet lifestyle

Countryside

good spot

The words we used the most, to say what we like best about living in Laverton

CHANGE FOR THE FUTURE

More of these programs will improve the health of our community

- Regular Dental Clinics
- Programs for Children
- Programs for Teens

We support new programs to reduce harm from:

- Sniffing volatiles
- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Illegal drugs

To help us be more physically active, we'd like

- Public exercise equipment that is free to use
- Exercise/play equipment in parks that caters for various age groups

For good community health, the resources and facilities we need are:

- Safe roads
- Parks and public open spaces
- Affordable housing

For easier access to healthy food, we need:

- Healthy food options at sporting & community & events
- Healthy food being easier to identify and find in the shops
- More healthy food options in takeaway/fast food outlets

The key environmental issues for our good community health are:

- Clean & safe air
- Safe, clean water for the Town supply
- Access to safe, affordable & nutritious food



Integrating the Public Health Vision into the Strategic Community Plan

The Public Health Plan incorporates the 4 key themes of community interest from the Shire of Laverton Strategic Community Plan:

- Social - Proud, spirited, harmonious and connected community
- Economic - Prosperous local economy attracting businesses, opportunities and people
- Environment - Revitalised, green, welcoming and safe natural and built environment
- Civic Leadership - A financially strong and knowledgeable Shire, leading an empowered community

And introduces a new theme:

- Health - Improving the health outcome of all people living in our community

While the Australian Bureau of Statistics has found that persons living in remote areas with town populations less than 1,000 are happier than those living in urban areas, this is balanced against greater travelling distances to access hospitals and specialised medical care and higher number of preventable deaths from lifestyle factors (obesity, smoking, diabetes), occupational incidents and road trauma.

The Shire of Laverton provides a wide range of recreational facilities and has demonstrated its commitment to public health through its continuing administration of environmental health and building services, provision of the Shire of Laverton Disability Access and Inclusion Plan, and by supporting community use of recreational facilities.

Laverton has little disadvantage in the community (SEIFA Index), has high employment in predominantly mining and service and tourism industries, and as a regional centre in the Northern Goldfields has a wider range of government and community services than surrounding Shires. Public Health Indicators are more positive than not, with high rates of immunisation, low teenage birth rate, lower cancer rates than state average, a low rate of youth suicide but low participation in cervical cancer screening



The Public Health Vision added to the Strategic Community Plan

SOCIAL	ECONOMIC	ENVIRONMENT	CIVIC LEADERSHIP	HEALTH
<i>Proud, spirited, harmonious and connected community</i> 1.1 A strong sense of community pride and ownership	<i>Prosperous local economy attracting businesses, opportunities and people</i> 2.1 Sustainable tourism 2.2 Improved economic development opportunities	<i>Revitalised, green, welcoming and safe natural and built environment</i> 3.1 Safe and efficient transport network 3.2 Modern, well maintained other built infrastructure 3.3 Clean, safe and tidy environment	<i>A financially strong and knowledgeable Shire, leading an empowered community</i> 4.1 Effective communication and stakeholder engagement 4.2 Organisational Development 4.3 Improved planning	<i>Improving the health outcome of all people living in our community</i> 5.1 Planning a COVID safe and healthy community 5.2 Preventing harm from unsafe use of alcohol, drugs, and solvents 5.3 Preventing obesity and increasing healthy affordable food options 5.4 Improving Community Health by encouraging preventable health screening 5.5 Providing environmental health protection



Community and Public Health Outcomes

Infectious Disease

5.1 Planning a COVID safe and healthy community

5.1.1 Minimise the incidence and community spread of infectious disease through education, vaccination, food surveillance and vector control

5.1.2 Keep the community informed on COVID-19 revisions

5.1.3 Implement COVID-19 Safety plans in consultation with emergency authorities

5.1.4 Develop COVID risk management guidelines for public events

5.1.5 Provide community education for personal hygiene, safe sex, home and workplace hygiene, including cleaning and disinfection

Harm Minimisation

5.2 Preventing harm from unsafe use alcohol & drug & solvents.

5.2.1 In conjunction with the Police and other stakeholders conduct a Safety Audit to improve safety and prevent crime and anti-social behaviour

5.2.2 Provide education to reduce alcohol and drug consumption in the community

5.2.3 Liaise with clubs and liquor outlets to promote safe sale, service and consumption of alcohol and tobacco

5.2.4 Encourage the community, particularly pregnant mothers and FIFO workers, to reduce smoking and promote smoke free public spaces such as playgrounds

Preventing Obesity

5.3 Preventing obesity and increasing healthy affordable food options

5.3.1 Raise awareness of the benefits of healthy eating by actively promoting the LiveLighter campaign

5.3.2 Raise awareness of the importance of recreational activities in reducing obesity and maintaining healthy weight and fitness

5.3.3 Encourage food outlets and events to provide a healthy range of food options such as organic, vegetarian, gluten free and low sugar and salt

5.3.4 Develop and implement a healthy catering policy for Council functions, meetings and events

Improving Community Health

5.4 Improving community health by encouraging preventable health screening

5.4.1 Liaise with government agencies to deliver regular screening services for early intervention of key health issues such as cervical, skin and breast cancer screening

5.4.2 Continue to maintain the high immunization rate among children whilst encouraging routine adult immunization programs

5.4.3 Review the AEDC score to determine areas of vulnerability in order to better support children and families

5.4.4 Work with the road Safety Commission and Main Roads WA to maintain a safe road network and reduce the trauma from road death and injury

Environmental Health Protection

5.5 Providing environmental health protection

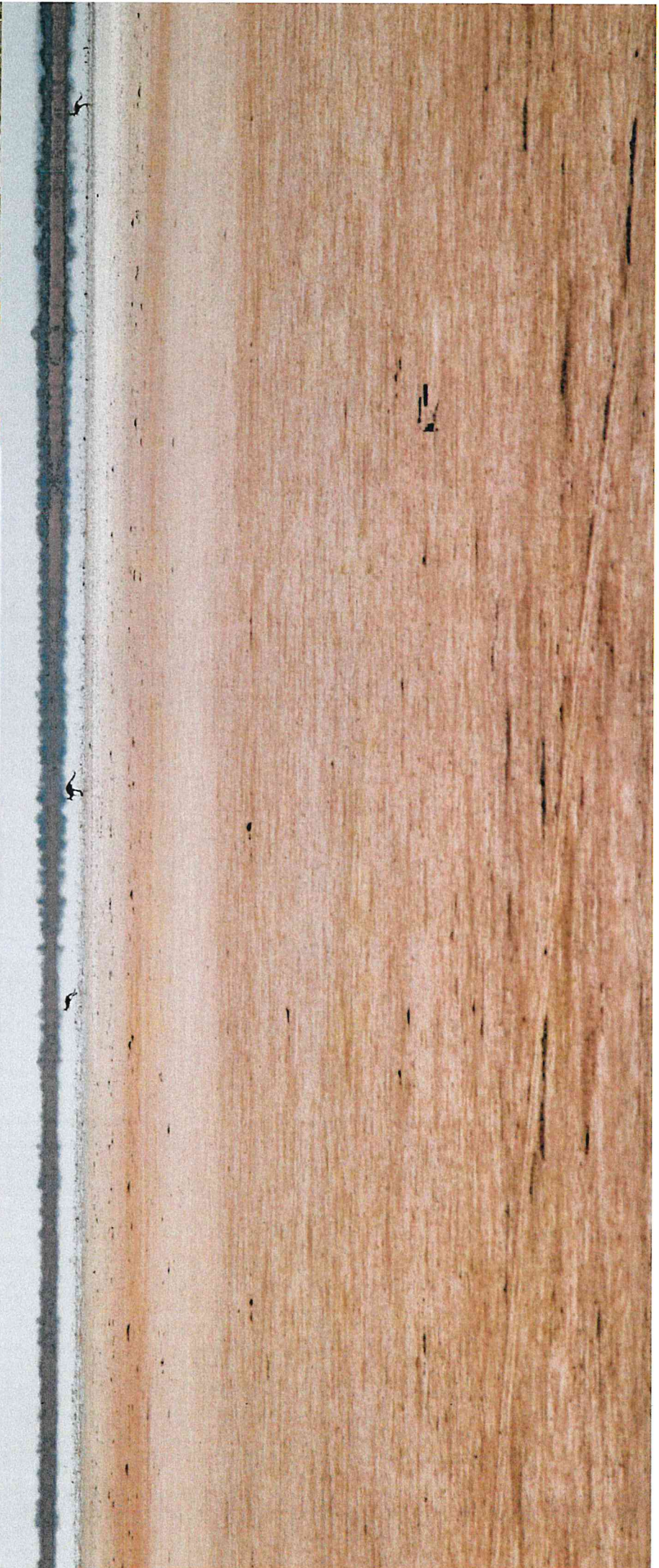
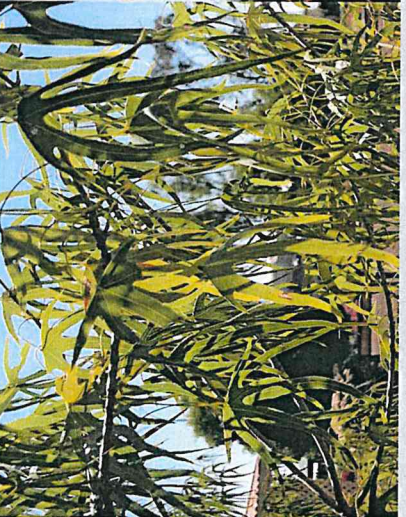
5.5.1 Provide educational information for food and other health premises, to maintain safe standards and protect the public

5.5.2 Develop a compliance register to track inspections of registered health premises and risk areas and develop target programs to reduce or eliminate risks

5.5.3 Monitor drinking and recreational waters, aquatic facilities and recycled water systems to maintain standards and reduce public health risks

5.5.4 Monitor vector 'hotspots' and provide eradication programs to reduce health risks





Conclusion

This Plan was developed in consultation with elected members and the community to reflect the needs of the local community.

Although health is everyone's responsibility, the Shire of Laverton is already contributing substantially to supporting the community through the provision of recreational services, tourism activities, airport and health and building administration.

Specifically, the Plan will directly influence the way in which the Shire of Laverton supports public health in the community by addressing better health outcomes for its citizens through the Strategic Community Plan outcomes.

These initiatives will provide the Shire of Laverton with a strong leadership role in the health and wellbeing of its population by:

- Adopting a leadership and advocacy role in better health planning;
- Having a whole of Council approach to delivering better health and wellbeing initiatives;
- Encouraging external partnerships in health; and
- Engaging elected members with the community to promote healthy lifestyles.

The Plan was developed by including:

- Extensive analysis of health data (a well-developed Health Profile Report);
- Participation in an electronic Health and Wellbeing Survey; and
- Consultation with elected members and senior officers.



The Way Forward

The strategies contained in the Shire of Laverton Public Health Plan are intended to mirror the work already underway. The Shire of Laverton effectively communicates with its citizens and provides a wide range of recreational services and facilities. This connection with Community was noted by the number of positive comments in the Public Health and Wellbeing Survey.

It is intended that the Plan be one where the Shire of Laverton can continue to do the good work already underway but take the opportunity to also include measures designed to increase early intervention against health illnesses (heart through overweight & obesity, harm minimisation through addressing smoking and drug awareness and cancer screening by lobbying health agencies to increase the number of opportunities for screening of cancers). There are a number of strategies which are designed to guide the Shire of Laverton in the manner in which it addresses better public health outcomes in this locality.

The Shire of Laverton may give consideration to liaising with the Goldfields Population Unit Health Promotion Officer in conjunction with neighbouring shires to review the supporting information in the Health Profile Report and the Better Health & Wellbeing Survey, and to work with government and funding agencies to raise awareness of disease situations and lifestyle illnesses.

Over the next four years, the Shire of Laverton will undertake initiatives to achieve the key strategies under each theme. Success will be measured by reporting against the outcomes of the plan. Modifying public health outcomes in the community is likely to be a slow process and may take a number of plans implemented to bring about community change.

Information used in the research phase of this plan was principally drawn from Census material (2011 & 2016), SEIFA Index (2016), AEDC (Education) data (2018), Health Department hospital admissions data (2018), and the Shire of Laverton Public Health and Wellbeing Survey 2020.



