



Town of
Port Hedland



Town of Port Hedland PHIC Community Industry Forum

February 4, 2026



Town Update

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Kariyarra people as the Traditional Custodians of the land and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.



Who We Are



- **The Town of Port Hedland** is a large local government area, covering 18,000sq/km and includes the main population centres of Port and South Hedland, the Wedgefield industrial area and remote communities of Strelley and Yandeyarra.
- **We work hard** to serve a growing, evolving community, one that plays a critical economic role in WA and nationally
- **We have a community** of about 17,480 people, with 8840 registered electors.
- **The community is young** with 75% aged under 50 years. The average age of our residents is 32. 17% of the population are aged between 5 and 19 years. Approximately 18% of the Town's population are Indigenous Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.
- **Our community is transient**, with almost a 20% turnover per annum. People are impacted by affordable housing, community safety, lack of education options, childcare capacity and other liveability issues.



Who We Are



Our council focus is on creating a thriving, resilient and inclusive future for our diverse community – and our key issue is liveability.



Our Partnership with Industry



Long-standing, shared commitment

Our partnerships with industry are built on years of working side-by-side to support the community and the region. These relationships are grounded in a shared understanding of Hedland's economic importance and a joint responsibility to strengthen the town's liveability, resilience and future growth.

Joint investment in liveability and infrastructure

The Town and our industry partners continue to collaborate on projects that improve local amenity, support essential services, and enable the workforce that drives regional operations. This includes co-investment in housing, community facilities, infrastructure upgrades, and initiatives that enhance quality of life for residents and families.

Transparent, collaborative relationships

We prioritise open communication, predictable processes, and shared planning to ensure that our partnerships are meaningful, constructive and respected. This approach helps align priorities, reduce duplication, and create long-term value for both the community and industry.



What We're Achieving Together



Infrastructure upgrades and public amenity

Recent major projects such as the Spoilbank Marina showcase the scale of investment improving access, recreation, and the visitor experience.

Community initiatives and investment

Our industry partnerships play a key role in delivering community programs and events throughout the year, enabling the Town to broaden its reach, enhance participation and maximise positive outcomes for the community.

Emergency management and regional resilience

A whole-of-community approach involving industry, emergency services, state agencies, volunteers and the Town ensures coordinated preparation, response and recovery.

Local procurement and small business support

Our procurement processes encourage local engagement, supported by close collaboration with small businesses and the Port Hedland Chamber of Commerce.



Planning & Development Collaboration

Precinct planning

Collaborating with industry to shape long-term precinct plans that supports both operational needs and community growth. An example of this is the West End Precinct plan.

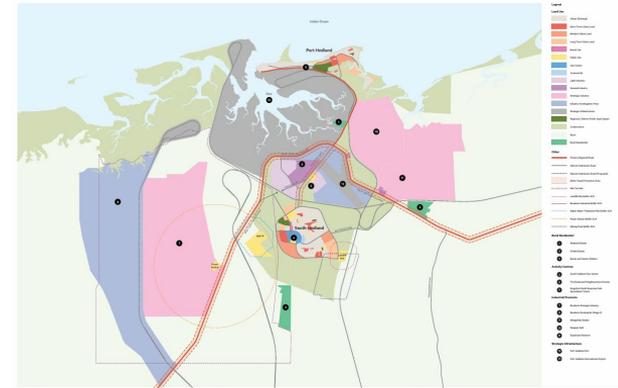
Housing, enabling infrastructure and approvals pathways

Partnering to progress housing supply, improve enabling infrastructure and streamline approvals processes that support sustainable development.

Scenario 1

Key design ideas:

1. Possible future long-term coastal walk connecting marina with West End. Subject to further investigation.
2. Possible development of waterfront area for further investigations.
3. Assessment of the West End and West End Precinct LDP.
4. Investigation of potential for a new marina and West End and possible connection to the marina or existing West End for future investigations.
5. Possible future enhancement of West End Precinct to create a new park for future investigations and possible future park with other facilities such as an amphitheatre, sports field and other recreational facilities.
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Map 04 - Townsite Surrounds
Town of Port Hedland Local Planning Strategy

Capital Works Partnerships



Key Worker Housing (delivery and pipeline)

Investigating the delivery of new key-worker housing and progress a long-term pipeline that supports workforce stability and community liveability.

Aquatic Facility planning and staging

Working with partners to advance planning for a modern aquatic facility, including staged delivery options, funding pathways and shared community benefit.

Childcare and other family services

Collaborating with providers and industry to expand childcare capacity and strengthen family-focused services essential for workforce attraction and retention.

Public realm and amenity upgrades

Co-investing in improved public spaces, recreation areas and community amenities that enhance the everyday experience of residents and support a vibrant town environment



Community Wellbeing & Support



Community Grants Program and NFP partnerships

Supporting local organisations through grants and partnership funding that enable community-led programs, events and initiatives across Hedland.

Support to social services (e.g., Well Women's Centre)

Strengthening critical services through collaboration with providers that support health, wellbeing, safety and social connection.

Arts, culture and sport initiatives

Investing in programs, events and facilities that celebrate Hedland's cultural identity and promote active, vibrant community life.

Link to workforce attraction and retention

Enhancing liveability through community programs and services that help attract, retain and support the local workforce and their families.



Education & Training

Partnerships with schools, TAFE and training providers

Collaborating with Hedland Senior High School, North Regional TAFE and training providers to deliver school-based traineeships and local training opportunities. A great example here is the town's school-based traineeship program.

Early childhood initiatives and youth development

Supporting early childhood services and delivering award-winning youth programs through the JD Hardie Centre, in partnership with local service providers. Industry also partners with the town in the delivery of our youth programs. An example is the SLAM program which is currently supported by Pilbara Ports.



Looking Ahead: Opportunities

Shared advocacy to State and Commonwealth

Working with industry to present a unified voice to government on critical priorities such as housing, infrastructure, community services and liveability.

Joint planning for enabling infrastructure

Collaborating to identify and progress essential infrastructure—water, roads, utilities, land and services—that supports both industry operations and community growth.

Formalised partnership frameworks and MOUs

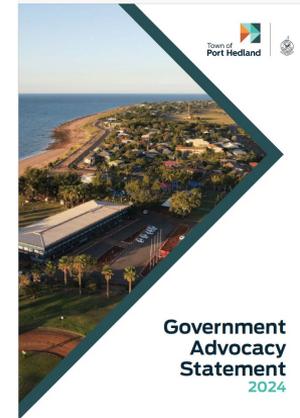
Exploring structured partnership models that provide clarity, accountability and long-term certainty for shared projects and investment.

Co-funded community priorities and housing

Leveraging joint investment to accelerate delivery of key community projects and expand housing supply for local families and essential workers.

A coordinated, long-term approach (beyond project-by-project)

Shifting toward strategic, multi-year partnerships that move past individual project funding and instead focus on long-term outcomes for Hedland.



Our Commitment



Transparent engagement and timely communication

Committed to open dialogue, regular updates and proactive communication that supports clarity and trust.

Consistency, reliability and delivery focus

Ensuring stable, dependable project delivery and follow-through, backed by clear processes and organisational accountability.

Strategic alignment with industry priorities

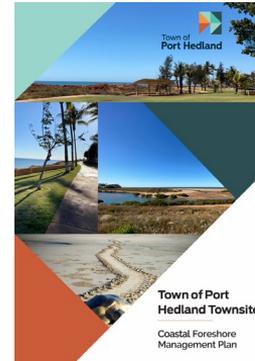
Working collaboratively to align Town initiatives with industry needs in areas such as housing, workforce support, liveability and long-term planning.

A single front door for partnerships and investment

The Senior Funding & Partnerships Officer provides a single, coordinated entry point for organisations seeking to invest or collaborate with the Town, ensuring consistent communication, aligned opportunities and strong momentum across multi-year initiatives.



Council Plan
2025-2035
Incorporating the
Strategic Community Plan
and Corporate Business Plan
Town of
Port Hedland



Town of Port
Hedland Townsite
Coastal Foreshore
Management Plan



Engagement
Strategy
2023-2028
Town of
Port Hedland

What have we done - Commissioners

Stabilising the organisation & rebuilding trust

- Restored financial certainty through an adopted budget.
- New Council Plan in place to guide priorities and accountability.
- Recruitment underway for a permanent CEO.
- Improved meeting procedures and governance practice.
- Reset expectations around conduct, transparency and decision-making.
- Undertaking an organisational health check and a Major Strategic Review to support long-term capability.



A community ready for renewal

- Community feedback reflects a strong desire for better local governance.
- Encouraging signs of residents considering standing for council.
- The March election is an opportunity for renewal and stronger leadership.
- Stability and governance improvements now in place to support the next council.



You're invited to

Candidate Information Session

Topics

- Local Government election process
- Responsibilities of Council Members
- Local Government's role in supporting the community
- The Western Australian Government's role in regulating councils and shires

Details

- Civic Centre and online
- Today, 4 February
- 7pm – 8.30pm



Scan the QR code to
watch online