

<http://community.environment.wa.gov.au>



## Tidy Towns Awards 2005

Tips and Information Book



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Peel	Mandurah	9550 4222
Great Southern	Denmark	9848 1866
Wheatbelt	Northam	9690 2621
Midwest & Gascoyne	Geraldton	9964 5978
Goldfields and Esperance	Kalgoorlie	9021 3243
Pilbara	Karratha	9144 2000
Kimberley	Kununurra	9166 4100





**Tidy Towns Regions**

# Tidy Towns Awards 2005

## Tips and Information Book



Tidy Towns



Department of  
Environment

Printed on recycled stock  
ISBN 1 920947 82 5

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# Chairman's Foreword

Welcome to Keep Australia Beautiful Council's 2005 Tidy Towns Competition!

I would like to congratulate Kojonup, winner of the State Tidy Towns Award 2004. The whole community has worked extraordinarily hard to achieve the completion of a number of projects.

I wish Kojonup the best of luck when they represent Western Australia in the National Tidy Towns Awards in Adelaide in April.

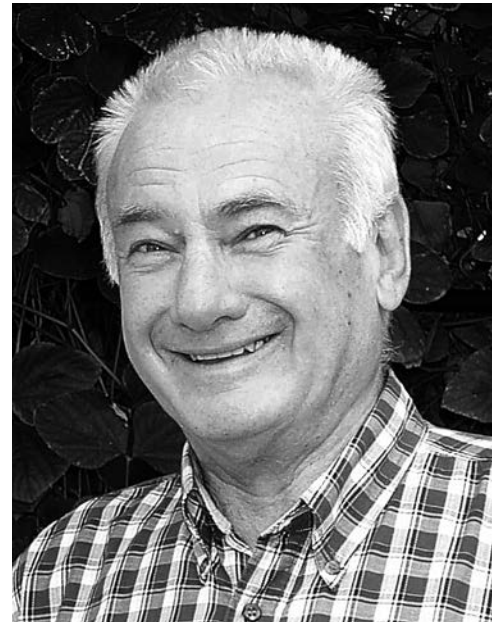
Congratulations must also go to all of our Tidy Towns Regional Winners – Looma, Pannawonica, Exmouth, Dongara, Wickiepin, Boddington, Collie and Hopetoun – well done!

Those of you who were able to attend the 2004 Tidy Towns and SGIO Environment Awards would have seen the huge diversity of projects that the winners have worked on during 2004.

Projects were as varied as the size, type and needs of these communities and included:

- a Community Recycling Partnership
- inviting 'young ambassadors' to attend Tidy Towns meetings
- coastal revegetation
- construction of a BMX track
- processing used cooking oil
- developing a Cultural Policy
- upgrading historic buildings
- a water conservation education program
- setting up a diabetes committee
- a road safety education program
- installation of a new playground by community volunteers

In 2004, Regional Award ceremonies were held in Dalwallinu, Albany, Dongara and Darkan. They were very well attended, and we gained feedback that people enjoyed the tours of the host towns, the opportunity to network and exchange ideas and the chance to view other portfolios.



One pro-active Tidy Towns Committee took the judges at their word and organised a bus trip to check out what another town in their region was doing with recycling. This is a terrific initiative, and I would encourage communities to informally share their ideas with neighbouring Tidy Towns groups. This may be achieved by organising bus trips, inviting guest speakers to Committee meetings, or by setting up a phone network, for instance. If good ideas that have been tested and work are shared around, communities gain, and the Tidy Towns program is achieving its aims!

Once again this year, the regional staff of the Department of Environment will provide technical expertise as needed. The Keep Australia Beautiful Council (KABC) highly values the assistance these staff provide, and I strongly encourage all communities to make contact with their closest Department of Environment office as soon as possible.

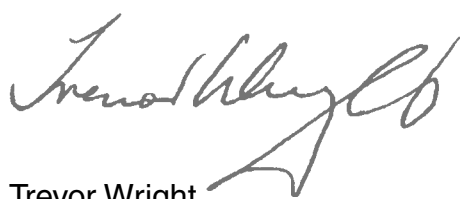
In 2004 we were fortunate to receive assistance from Kimberley TAFE, Kimberley Development Commission, Goldfields Esperance Development Commission, Northam Land Conservation District Committee, Roadnight and Associates, Wonderful Ways with Waste, Mid West Gascoyne Area Consultative Committee, Great Southern Area Consultative Committee, Department of Local Government and Regional Development, Mr Athol Wigg, Mrs Pamela Payne, and Mrs Bobbie Reilly. KABC is most appreciative of the generous time and support given by these people and organisations.

There are not many changes to this year's competition, which gives us the opportunity to strengthen our networks and build new partnerships. I strongly encourage you to do the same at the local level – 'working smarter not harder' is a useful adage to remember. As a general rule, we've seen that those Tidy Towns Committees that work as more of a 'coordinating group' than members who strive to undertake work on all of the projects themselves are more successful at the Awards. And I'm sure you would agree that it's more sustainable!

But however you choose to work, I'd like to thank you for your continued support of the Tidy Towns program and wish you the best of luck.

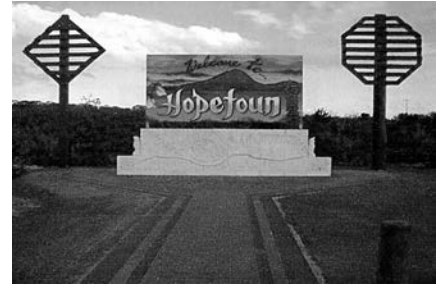
I hope you agree that just by participating in Tidy Towns you are winning, by making your community a better place to live.

Best wishes for 2005,



Trevor Wright  
Chairman, Keep Australia Beautiful Council (WA)

# Welcome to Tidy Towns 2005



Uniting rural, remote and regional communities across Western Australia to promote attractive communities, healthy environments and a sustainable future

## A word on how it all started ...

Western Australia's Tidy Towns program was the first such program started in Australia.

It was originally managed by the WA Tourist Development Authority, with the Keep Australia Beautiful Council WA (KABC) taking over the running of Tidy Towns in 1973.

In 1980, the KABC became a Statutory Authority of Government.

Around 1998, industry sponsors withdrew funding from KABC, leaving the KABC unable to continue the support to its programs.

Rather than risk losing all of these valuable programs, in 2000, the KABC merged with the Department of Environment.

The benefits of this merger are many, and include:

- Tidy Towns and other KABC programs have had their program funding increased fourfold.
- The Department of Environment has provided infrastructure that KABC would not otherwise be able to access, including accommodation, computers, software, desktop publishing and vehicles.

- The merger with the Department of Environment has also provided KABC access to its services, including expert advice on environmental issues, information technology support, mail, media, marketing, graphic design, finance, human resource and other services.
- Tidy Towns Committees are also able to access support and advice from the many Department of Environment regional staff who are located throughout Western Australia.

It has now been 36 years since the program began and it is still going strong!

As with all things, the Tidy Towns program has undergone some changes, including moving to a broader environmental focus.

We want to ensure that the program still meets the needs of rural towns and communities and we welcome any feedback from anyone involved.

# What does it mean to be 'Tidy'?

**Tidy Towns** is a program that acknowledges and rewards communities. It recognises community projects that enhance and look after the community's assets and surrounding environment. A 'Tidy' Town is a community that works together to improve its appearance and environment.

Traditionally, the program focused on tidy streets, litter prevention and beautification. While these are still important, today being 'tidy' means so much more.

Communities investigate and conserve assets such as their cultural heritage, bushland and rivers and limit their impact on the environment through recycling and resource recovery.



Tidy Towns is a community development package that helps communities to do the best with what they've got to ensure a sustainable future.

<b>Tidy Towns aims to have such widespread benefits as:</b>
• Public awareness of litter and waste management
• Conservation of native bush, creek lines, dunes and local flora
• Attractive streets
• Increased pride and social cooperation
• More tourism
• Improved health standards
• Improved facilities and recreational areas
• Youth participation
• Environmental innovations for saving energy and resources
• Respect for Australia's indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage
• Protection of fresh water resources
• Reduced waste
• A healthier environment.

What does it mean to be 'Tidy'?



# Getting started

The first step for most communities is to start a Tidy Towns Committee (TTC), which oversees and reports on activities in the community, acting as a coordinating group to link all interests together. The TTC can vary greatly in size, structure and focus, but generally it:

- meets to plan projects for the year
- coordinates and/or reports (via a standardised portfolio) on the activities of all the groups in the community who have agreed to be part of the Tidy Towns effort
- represents a link between the community, local government and the Keep Australia Beautiful Council (KABC)

## Who should be involved?

The main players in Tidy Towns projects vary from place to place, but usually include:

- **Local Government authorities** who are important players for providing assistance and guidance to the TTC. They also liaise between councillors, gardeners, shire workers, shire-sponsored community groups and schools to ensure work is carried out in accordance with the community's wishes.
- **Business and Industry** which can help analyse environmental problems specific to the operation of the town's businesses, and provide sponsorship for these activities by providing materials or funding. This group may also include tourist and visitor centres, Chambers of Commerce, mining companies and other industries operating in the shire.
- **Local schools** which are a rich source of ideas and TTCs are encouraged to approach them to assist with the preparation of their portfolio. KABC has a document that can help teachers to incorporate Tidy Towns projects into the school curriculum for country schools. The Tidy Towns program has an important role to play

in helping to develop effective environmental education programs in all grades of schools. School children are an important group for getting messages out to parents, as well as changing public opinion. Consider also parents' and citizens' committees, adult education groups and school councils.

- **The media** which is an important asset in helping to disseminate messages. Media outlets can publicise and gain assistance for projects and help with public awareness campaigns. When approaching the media, think about local newspapers, radio, television and editors of community newsletters such as schools, service clubs, community or environmental groups.
- **Community and Service Groups** which often undertake Tidy Towns-type activities and their efforts should be recognised as part of Tidy Towns. They may develop innovative projects related to environmental challenges, litter control, or the restoration of historic buildings. Liaison with groups such as Land for Wildlife, Bushcare, Ribbons of Blue or World Wildlife Fund (WWF) may also provide a good opportunity to broaden the environmental scope of Tidy Towns.
- **Youth** (young people up to the age of about 30) who can be the most difficult to engage in Tidy Towns. Your local service club, Rural Youth Club, young farmers' group, church group, Community Development or Youth Officer at your Shire may be able to advise how to attract youth and get them involved in Tidy Towns.

You may wish to invite people from each of the above groups to your TTC meetings to ensure your planning represents all sectors of the community. If this seems a bit daunting, remember that a TTC belongs to your community – it can be as simple or as complex as necessary.

A TTC is not expected to carry out all of the activities themselves. Your TTC can coordinate



and participate in some projects, but your main work should be in reporting on projects for other groups within the community. You should plan any of your own TTC projects with strict regard for your group's capacity.

Also, if your town is large or a city, you could concentrate your efforts on part of it this year and focus your efforts on another part next year, in line with your long term Tidy Towns plan. Or you may wish to undertake one or two suggestions or initiatives (Waste and Recycling Management, Natural Heritage Conservation, Cultural Heritage Conservation and Fresh Water Conservation) this year, and focus on others in future years.

For suggestions on how to involve other members of your community, see the Community Action section.

## Your Portfolio

Each community is given a blank portfolio when entering the competition. When completed, these portfolios are a great record of your community's work, as well as a community asset to show off and keep at the Shire Office or Library.

If you find that completing the portfolio is time consuming, perhaps these suggestions could help:

- approach the Society and Environment teacher at the school and ask if their class could help complete the portfolio. Contact 9278 0684 for a 'Curriculum Links' document that helps teachers incorporate Tidy Towns activities into their programming, or download from <http://community.environment.wa.gov.au>
- remember the TTC is a coordinating group, and liaising with and reporting on other community groups should be the major work you do
- compete in only one or two initiatives each year
- talk to your Shire's Community Development officer
- remember that the portfolio is only a guide for judges, and that you will not be judged on its presentation
- if you are pushed for time, a few photos in each category you enter and some dot points about the projects is sufficient
- remember it's more important to tell the judges all about your projects when they visit during the judging period
- the sooner you start your portfolio, the easier it is! Start collecting photos, news-clippings and stories each year in August.

The Tidy Towns competition is not about how much money you spend on materials, your ability to produce a professional looking portfolio, or the relative size of the town, it is simply your ability to do the best with what your community already has. Communities which do well engage a broad range of community members, and do not solely rely on shire involvement.

# What sort of projects can be included in Tidy Towns?

Almost any community project can be considered as a Tidy Towns project – work on what is important for your community. Community groups may already be working on many projects that can be rewarded through Tidy Towns, such as:

- Recycling programs
- Reducing water and energy use
- Providing facilities such as seats, bins, shelters, BBQs
- Community litter clean ups
- Restoring historic sites
- Cultural activities such as festivals
- Recording oral histories
- Providing breakfasts at school
- Planting native trees and gardens
- Rehabilitating native bushland
- Eradicating environmental weeds
- Water harvesting
- Fauna and flora recovery
- Attracting grants to work on environmental projects
- Improving homes or yards for elderly or disadvantaged people
- Providing Environmental Education programs in schools
- School environment displays at shopping centres, field days etc.

- Local awards for a variety of community efforts
- Partnerships between community and government to address local issues

The 2004 Tidy Towns and SGIO WA Environment Awards Winners' Book has more details of projects undertaken by regional finalists – see our Tidy Towns website <<http://community.environment.wa.gov.au>>.

Your community will be judged on the improvements made between **August 2004 and July 2005**, taking into account some projects are small and succinct while others are the culmination of years of effort – so judges will look at efforts to maintain projects as well as start new ones.

Please don't think your TTC or community has to undertake all of the suggestions in this book – we want to reward community achievement, not promote volunteer burnout!

Remember that this book provides suggestions only, and your own innovations or project ideas are always welcomed. It's hoped that the best ideas will be shared around, and therefore will contribute to making all communities more sustainable. Contact the State Program Manager if you would like to share your great idea!



What sort of projects can be included in Tidy Towns?

# How to enter the competition

There are two levels in the Tidy Towns competition:

## 1. Regional Competitions

It's possible to enter just one Initiative category if you prefer. This might enable your TTC to focus on one area of interest or special need in your community, for instance, recycling or natural heritage, in addition to the compulsory criteria of Community Action and General Appearance. This makes it easier for smaller towns that don't necessarily want to compete at the state level or don't have the resources to do so. This means you are competing for an Achievement Award in the categories you do enter.

## 2. State Competition

To become a regional finalist, which means you may be chosen a regional winner and compete for the state title, you need to enter **all** Initiative categories. This ensures that your community has performed well across all categories and will be competitive at the national level, should your community be chosen as the State Winner. Each State's Winner is later judged by the Keep Australia Beautiful National Association and competes for the national title of Australia's Tidiest Town.

### So, you need to make a choice:

- enter the two compulsory criteria and one or more of the Initiative categories to compete for a Regional Achievement Award. Just complete the portfolio sections of the categories you do enter and submit by 31 July

or

- enter the two compulsory criteria and all of the individual Initiative categories to compete to become a Regional Finalist, Regional Winner, State Winner and ultimately Australian Winner. Ensure every section of the portfolio is completed by 31 July.

### Steps to enter:

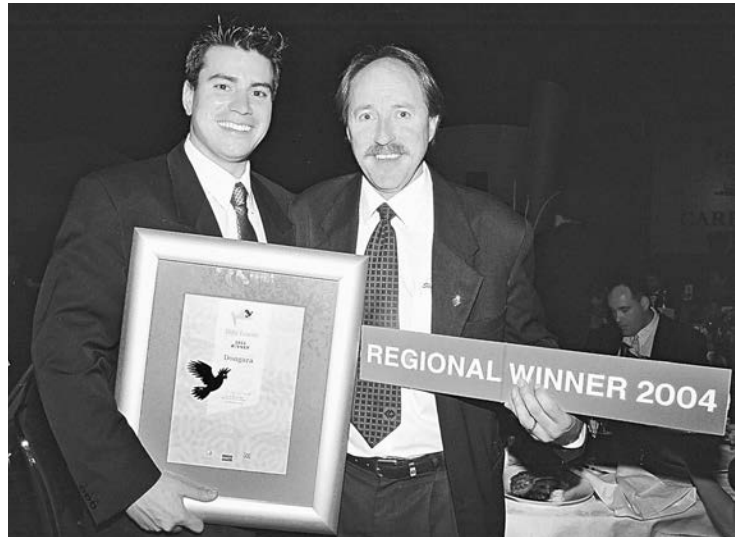
1. **Complete a Registration Form and return it by 31 March.**
2. **Choose which of the Initiative categories and therefore which of the two levels of competition you would like to enter.**
3. **Contact your local Department of Environment Office** to discuss project ideas and any technical assistance you require. It is essential that you make contact with them as early as possible.
4. **Review all of the activities you have completed, maintained or intend to complete between 1 August 2004 and 31 July 2005.** Start collecting photos, news-clippings and stories now for your portfolio.
5. **Complete the portfolio checklist and send it, the media statement and executive summary to the State Program Manager.**
6. **Complete your portfolio and send it to your closest regional Department of Environment Officer by 31 July.**
7. **Nominate one or more TTC members to meet with judges between August and September.**
8. **Attend your Regional Awards ceremony.** The following awards will be presented for each region:
  - Regional Achievement Award – Community Action and General Appearance
  - Regional Achievement Award – Waste Management and Recycling
  - Regional Achievement Award – Natural Heritage Conservation
  - Regional Achievement Award – Cultural Heritage Conservation
  - Regional Achievement Award – Fresh Water Conservation
  - Regional Finalists – Best performers over all categories in each region

**9. Attend the Tidy Towns State Awards Ceremony.** The following awards will be announced:

- Spirit of Australia
- Regional Winners – Best finalist in each region
- State Winner – Best performance by a Regional Winner

**10. If you are voted the State Winner, you will be visited by the National Judge between December and February and attend the National Awards in 2006.** Each State will win one of the following Achievement Awards:

- Spirit of Australia
- Young Legends
- Litter and Waste Management
- Community – Local Government Partnership
- Environmental Innovation
- Protection of the Environment
- Community Action
- Dame Phyllis Frost Award



In addition, your community may be awarded the prestigious title of Australia’s Tidiest Town! See <<http://www.keepaustraliabeautiful.com.au/nat>> for details of last year’s winner.

## Timeline for 2005

February – March	2005 Program launched.
March – April	A standardised portfolio kit is sent to all registered communities. A Department of Environment officer is assigned to assist communities throughout the competition with information and technical advice.
<b>*31 March</b>	<b>Registration forms due from communities.</b>
<b>*31 July</b>	<b>Portfolios due from communities.</b>
August – September	Regional Judging Panels visit all communities.
Mid October	State Judging Panel meets to decide on State Winner.
October	Regional Achievement Award winners and finalists announced at Regional Awards events.
<b>November/early December</b>	<b>Regional Winners and State Winner announced at State Tidy Towns Awards.</b>
*Please note that late registrations or portfolios <b>will not</b> be accepted after the due date.	

# 2005 Judging Criteria

## 1. Community Action (Compulsory criterion)

- Tidy Town Committee or coordinating group commitment
- Community groups and individual effort
- School/s participation, including students, teachers and parents
- Business and Industry commitment
- Local government support
- Youth encouragement/mentoring

## 2. General Appearance (Compulsory criterion)

- Approaches to towns, including signs and features
- Business, retail and industrial areas, including adequacy and servicing of bins, signs etc.
- Parks, gardens and sporting areas, including adequacy and servicing of bins, signs etc.
- Homes and gardens
- Streets, including footpaths, verges etc.



## 3. Initiatives (Choose one or more Initiative)

### 3.1. Waste and Recycling Management

- Concept plan
- Local government support
- Education and awareness raising programs
- Community involvement

### 3.2. Natural Heritage Conservation

- Concept plan
- Local government support
- Community involvement
- Promotion of values to residents and visitors

### 3.3. Cultural Heritage Conservation

- Concept plan
- Local government support
- Community involvement
- Promotion of values to residents and visitors

### 3.4. Fresh Water Conservation

- Concept plan
- Local government support
- Community involvement
- Innovative methods

**Note: to be eligible to become a Regional Finalist, you must enter all four initiatives.**

# Getting help with Tidy Towns

Although there is a very strong level of competition amongst communities entering Tidy Towns, there is also a strong sense of 'mateship'. The communities that do best in the competition are those that share their ideas and invite others to come to their communities. These communities know the benefits of gaining the experience of others in how to engage the community and work effectively.

There are other opportunities to share ideas. Program launches and awards ceremonies are coupled with bus tours of the host town. This gives an opportunity for everyone to get together to share lessons and experience from their towns and see how another community may have approached a similar challenge. Where distance prevents communities from visiting each other, an e-mail or phone network may help to share ideas.

Advice should be sought from the regional offices of the Department of Environment or State office of the Keep Australia Beautiful Council for technical expertise, contacts or as a sounding



board for new project ideas. You might wish to ask for the contact details of a competing community near you or one of last year's regional or state winners. These communities are proud of their achievements and will probably be happy to share their knowledge and experience.

Check the contact details on the back cover of this book for your closest regional office.

# Congratulations to our 2004 Winners!

## State Winner – Kojonup

Kimberley Regional Winner – Looma

Pilbara Regional Winner – Pannawonica

Midwest Regional Winner – Dongara

Gascoyne Regional Winner – Exmouth

Goldfields-Esperance Regional Winner –  
Hopetoun

Wheatbelt Regional Winner – Wickepin

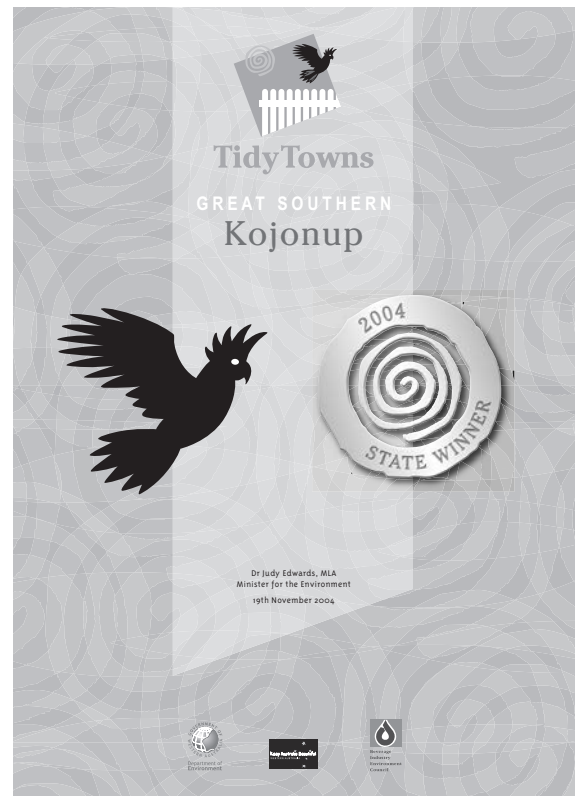
South West Regional Winner – Collie

Peel Regional Winner – Boddington

Great Southern Regional Winner – Kojonup

## Is it your community's turn in 2005?

Check our website for details of the projects undertaken by the 2004 Tidy Towns winners and finalists <<http://community.environment.wa.gov.au>>.



Congratulations!



# 1. Community Action Project Tips

**Note: All communities must enter this criterion.**

The Community Action criterion is really about getting different groups and individuals involved in Tidy Towns. Tidy Towns judges will be looking for:

- Tidy Towns Committee or Coordinating Group Commitment
- Community Groups and Individual Effort
- Youth Participation, including Students, Teachers and Parents
- Business and Industry Commitment
- Local Government Support
- Training and Mentoring

The TTC should coordinate entry into Tidy Towns and constantly liaise with other groups about their current community projects. Successful Tidy Towns entries often have a mixture of youth, business, indigenous and Landcare projects, for example, included in their portfolios.

The TTC should work closely with the local shire as often it undertakes projects or works that could easily be incorporated into a Tidy Towns entry.

The TTC may also organise specific Tidy Towns projects. Try to get as many different people involved from the community as you can, ensure it is all recorded in your portfolio and tell the judges when they visit your town.

Remember to recognise and reward volunteers regularly with social events. Order KABC Certificates of Merit for people and groups who have contributed to Tidy Towns by contacting the Program Manager on 9278 0684.

**Some groups that may already be working on Tidy Towns – type projects in your community are:**

- Local Government



- Scout or Guide groups
- Rural Youth
- Service clubs such as Lions and Rotary
- Schools
- Progress Associations
- Local businesses and industries
- Business associations such as Chamber of Commerce
- Sporting clubs
- State and Commonwealth Government Departments
- Environment groups such as World Wide Fund for Nature, Greening WA and Green Corps
- Landcare groups
- Historical Societies
- Aboriginal corporations
- Gardening groups
- Social groups

**There are also ways to get youth and schools involved. Consider:**

- encouraging local youth organisations such as Rural Youth, scouts, guides, fishing clubs, schools, church, young farmers or Youth Advisory Councils (YAC) to include environmental, cultural or community care projects in their calendar of activities.
- talking to the Society and Environment Teacher or the Principal of the local school about



incorporating Tidy Towns activities into their programming. Asking your local school to compile your portfolio may be another way to involve young people in Tidy Towns projects. Call 9278 0684 for our 'Teacher Information with Curriculum Links' document, or download from <http://community.environment.wa.gov.au>.

- Collie TTC's great idea of inviting some school age children to become 'Tidy Town Ambassadors' and attend TTC meetings. The Ambassadors assisted in identifying potential projects from a youth perspective, such as community art, park cleanliness and facilities.
- contacting your Shire's Community Development Officer and Environmental Officer for ideas.

- encouraging your local school to participate in Waste Wise Schools Program. Contact the Department of Environment on 9278 0676.
- booking a visit by the Waste Wise Display Trailer. It contains interactive activities for schools on waste minimisation topics such as the 3Rs, composting, worm farming and shop smart. Contact the Department of Environment on 9278 0681.
- your school's eligibility for the Waste Wise WA Youth Grants, which help minimise waste going to local landfill. Grants of up to \$1000 are available towards youth-led waste minimisation projects. Download a copy of the Youth Grants Application Kit <http://www.wastewise.wa.gov.au/schools/> or contact the Department of Environment on 9278 0676.
- encouraging your local schools to participate in AirWatch. It's an innovative educational program to help students understand air quality issues by learning about local air quality and by actively monitoring their local air shed. Contact Department of Environment on 9278 0649.
- encouraging your local schools to participate in Ribbons of Blue. It uses water quality monitoring and catchment management activities as tools to focus learning, while involvement in projects builds a sense of environmental, social and civic responsibility for the shared management of local environments. Contact the Department of Environment on 9278 0646.
- encouraging your local schools to enter the Western Australian Schools Environmental Education Awards. Contact the Department of Environment on 9278 0300.
- organising a visit by Captain Cleanup to your local schools or next community event. For more information contact Quintin George on 0416 089 746.
- contacting your nearest Youth Advisory Council (YAC). YACs are young people aged 12–20 who represent their peers and communities to advise government about issues facing young people. Contact the Department of Community Development for details on 9476 2000.



### Need help with the projects you have planned?

- Conservation Volunteers Australia can help with conservation projects. Contact 9336 6911 or e-mail <perth@conservationvolunteers.com.au>.
- Men of the Trees may assist with tree planting or revegetation projects. They also can advise on how set up a nursery, and they manage the Farm Tree Help Scheme and the Million Trees Program. Contact 9250 1888.
- Volunteering Western Australia is the peak body in Western Australia for volunteering – visit their website at <<http://www.volunteer.org.au/>> or call 9420 7288.
- Indigenous organisations can ask Indigenous Community Volunteers for volunteers with particular skills. Ring Tollfree 1800 819 542 or e-mail <info@volindigenous.org.au>.

### For ideas on how to attract, maintain and reward volunteers from within your community, see

- the information sheet from 'Attracting Volunteers to Your Project and Maintaining Volunteer Involvement', Swan Catchment Centre, Department of Conservation and Land Management, and Greening Australia's 1999 Seminar and Project Management Series©. Acknowledgments: R. Guy, J. Huston, M. O'Byrne and L. Western.
- Dr Judy Esmond's 'Count Me In – 501 Ideas for Recruiting Volunteers', ISBN 0646408941.

In 2001, the Fire and Emergency Services Authority provided a copy to every Local Government in the State. If it's not in your shire's library, contact Newseason Books on 9361 9339.

- the Department of Sport and Recreation's Volunteer Improvement Program website has information relevant to TTCs. Visit <<http://www.dsr.wa.gov.au/programs/volunteers/volunteers.asp>> and follow the links under 'Other Helpful Resources'.

### Building Good Foundations for Your Committee

(From an information sheet 'Now That You Have the Grant – What to do Next?', Swan Catchment Centre, Department of Conservation and Land Management and Greening Australia's 1999 Seminar and Project Management Series).

#### *Clarifying your group's objectives and milestones*

Objectives set down what you want the outcome to be for your project. Milestones are the series of tasks or achievements you can tick off along the way.

- Clarify your group's objectives and milestones – as a group, decide on what you want to achieve and write it down. Aim to keep this as clear and simple as possible.
- Make your objectives SMART – Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely. Check them off against these criteria.



- Put your objectives and milestones up on a board or visible list and tick them off as you achieve them.
- Measure decisions you make or actions you carry out against your objectives and milestones to help you keep on track.
- Congratulate yourselves as you achieve each or your objectives and milestones. Let all of your group members know.

#### *Planning the Actions*

Brainstorming with your committee and setting up charts helps action planning. Annual action planning is a useful way to plan for short-term activities of the group and helps with reviewing the group's progress at the end of the year.

- Break down your group's overall objectives into workable units (e.g. setting up can recycling, creating water wise gardens, planting native street trees, holding a cultural planning meeting).

- Decide on the actions needed to achieve each objective, using as much detail as possible.
- Decide who will do the work, what the budget is required and the time frame. A table could help with this planning.
- Draw a calendar on a big chart or year planner for all to see and then use it!
- Make sure you put suitable monitoring activities into place (e.g. before and after photographs, methods for measuring amount of recycling collected, water monitoring for creek revegetation etc.)
- Will you require continued funding?

#### **Promoting Your Tidy Towns Cause**

- Liaise with the local media for publicity and promotion of your activities. This may be writing regular articles for a community newsletter or inviting the local paper and radio station to key community events. This should raise the profile of Tidy Towns and may encourage more volunteers.
- Your TTC could hold public seminars to educate the community on various topics concerning Tidy Towns. Meetings could also get the community together to discuss the future of the town, potential projects, new ideas and recruitment of volunteers.

## 2. General Appearance Project Tips

**Note: All communities must enter this criterion.**

### Approaches to Town

- Construct an eye-catching entry statement with a 'Welcome' message. This can be as simple or as elaborate as local funds permit. The best entry statements are often those that use locally available materials like old machinery or local stone.
- Plant an avenue of water wise trees along the approach roads.
- Landscape the road verge with native shrubs or wildflowers.
- Remove or improve any eyesores along the approaches to town.
- Remove verge weeds such as wild oats, lupins, radish and veldt grass.
- Ensure that Information Bays are well maintained, interesting and easily visible to visitors entering town. Try to keep the design eye-catching and simple.
- Organise regular clean ups of the roadsides. Encourage local landholders to adopt a section of road and take responsibility for keeping it litter free.
- Ensure that there is sufficient lighting to guide visitors to public amenities or caravan parks at night.
- Ensure that there is adequate signage for visitors to locate picnic facilities and parks.

### Business and Retail Areas

- Remove or improve any eyesores.
- Have a plan in place to control vandalism or graffiti.
- Encourage businesses to improve their premises by having an award for the best-kept business premises.



- Include the internationally renowned 'Tidy Person' symbol on bins.
- Devise your own Tidy Town message to be placed on bins.
- Ensure that there are adequate, well-placed litter bins with lids to prevent wind blown litter or rummaging by birds or vermin.
- Erect anti-littering signs in areas prone to litter.
- Develop a streetscape theme and complement this with street furniture and signage.
- Ensure frequent collection from litter bins.
- Provide cigarette butt disposal facilities. Cigarette butts have been found in the stomachs of birds, sea turtles and other marine animals, they are a serious contaminant of our waterways; and can cause major bush fires when not disposed of properly.



## Sporting Areas, Public Parks and Gardens

- Remove or improve any eyesores.
- Create a plan to control vandalism or graffiti.
- Construct an entry statement to the town's sports ground.
- Paint murals on bare walls. This adds colour to the community and also acts as a deterrent to graffiti. Contact Community Arts Network WA on 1800 681 021.
- Landscape around car parks or buildings using native plants.



- Remove any long grass or weeds, preferably without the use of pesticides/herbicides.
- Supply adequate bins or recycling facilities.
- Provide visitor facilities, including toilets, picnic areas, barbecues, shaded playgrounds, car parks and tourist information services.
- Provide multi-lingual signage (if appropriate), or universal signage to guide non-readers or non-English speaking visitors to facilities and tourist sites.
- Ensure that there is access to public facilities and local attractions for disabled and elderly people.
- Ensure frequent collection from litter bins and recycling facilities.
- Provide dog-litter bags and disposal facilities in public areas.
- Provide cigarette butt disposal facilities.

## Private Homes and Gardens

- Conduct competitions to provide residents with extra incentives, e.g. Best Native Garden, Best Garden for Wildlife, Best Kept Street, Best Organic Garden.
- Encourage low water use gardens and lawn substitutes.
- Encourage local nurseries to stock local native plants.
- Ensure frequent collection from litter bins and recycling facilities.



## Streets (Including Footpaths, Verges)

- Conduct an audit of signage in your community. Improve the standard of signs or adopt a common theme for signage.
- Ensure that your community has adequate, well-placed signage for parking, amenities, tourist information services and attractions.
- Identify any litter 'black-spots' and organise a clean up by the community.
- Conduct an audit of litter bins in your community and identify any areas where street bins might be appropriate.
- Ensure that visitors and locals know where to take waste and recyclable products by providing adequate signage to recycling centres and landfill facilities.
- Ensure streets and verges are clean and litter free.
- Landscape street verges with native plants where possible.
- Remove long grass and weeds from street verges, preferably without the use of pesticides/herbicides. The Shire of Wanneroo and City of Nedlands successfully use hot water weeding.



- Improve footpaths and cycle ways to cater for disabled and elderly access.
- Ensure frequent collection from litter bins and recycling facilities.

## 3. Initiatives

There are lots of great case studies for how communities around Western Australia are working to conserve our natural resources and reduce our impact on the environment. Stories about looking after native vegetation, harnessing natural energy, sustainable building design and community development can be found on the WA Sustainability Unit's website at <<http://www.sustainability.dpc.wa.gov.au>>.

There are also useful tips for Sustainable Living at the WA Collaboration's website <[http://www.wacollaboration.org.au/Sustainable\\_Living.pdf](http://www.wacollaboration.org.au/Sustainable_Living.pdf)>.

Many of the projects suggested in this book cost money to implement. An easy way to search for Federal grants is online at <<http://www.grantslink.gov.au>> or call 1800 026 222. Search for state government grants at <<http://grantsdirectory.dlgrd.wa.gov.au/>> or call Department of Local Government and Regional Development 9217 1445.

An excellent resource is *A Kit for Small Town Renewal*, available on the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation's website <<http://www.rirdc.gov.au/reports/HCC/01-043.pdf>>.

**Note:** You may enter one or more of these optional criteria – see page 10.

### 3.1 Waste and Recycling Management Project Tips

#### Concept Plan

- In today's society, the principles of **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** are becoming increasingly important, as the volume of waste we produce is rising. The Waste Wise website <[www.wastewise.wa.gov.au](http://www.wastewise.wa.gov.au)> is an excellent place to start when planning a waste reduction program. It has lots of great tips and practical solutions for



offices, industries, households and schools. There is a special section for country areas and some contacts for purchasers of recycled products.

- Conduct an **audit of the litter and waste management** activities undertaken by your community or local government, and assess the main waste streams produced in your town. This can form the basis of a Waste Management Strategy. You may want to undertake this as part of a regional association of shires so that resources can be shared, infrastructure costs reduced and common markets can be identified for bulk deliveries or pick ups. This should be combined with regular community or regional waste audits to provide feedback to the community on the difference their contributions are making, and to provide a means of evaluating the strategy's success.
- If you live in a remote community, contact your Aboriginal Environmental Health Worker or Shire **Environmental Health** Officer to get some assistance with forming a plan for



Rubbish Management. These workers can be found at Aboriginal Medical Services, Kimberley, Gascoyne and Pilbara Health Services and local shires. They have been trained in a variety of areas, including rubbish collection and how to prevent some of the common diseases associated with its disposal.



## Local Government Support

- Take a trip to your local rubbish dump or **waste management facility** with shire officers. Check whether it has adequate fencing to prevent litter blow, measures to prevent odour and if waste material is covered to discourage pests and vermin. Planting a buffer of trees provides a wind barrier, beautifies the area and can prevent contamination by lowering the water table.
- Encourage the local shire to set aside areas for **garden waste** at the rubbish dump and access to a chipper to process the waste into mulch. Some communities have incorporated cardboard and shredded paper into compost as a valuable additive when it is uneconomic to transport these materials to Perth for recycling. Residents and the shire can then use the compost on gardens to reduce water consumption.
- Do a self-assessment or litter audit for your community and determine the locations of **litter black spots**. Once these have been identified, meet with the shire to look at possible solutions, such as the appropriate placement of bins or the supply of larger or moveable bins during peak use times, such as festivals and holiday periods.
- Enlist the support of your shire to let **visitors** know they are in a Tidy Town. Investigate if bins can be provided for waste and recyclable materials at Information Bays, local stores or prominent places where visitors stop. Ensure that they are large enough and emptied regularly to prevent overflowing.
- Encourage your shire to promote the use of **compost bins** or **worm farms** to recycle green waste and provide rebates to residents. If there is no budget for rebates the shire could coordinate a bulk order of bins to make the system cheaper for residents and reduce the amount of green waste going to the rubbish dump. Typically, the major component of waste collected from domestic sources is organic, with green (20-30%) and food (35-45%) wastes collectively accounting for 60-70% of the total waste collected.
- If there are a lot of **reusable items** such as furniture, building materials, bikes or other items going to landfill, encourage your shire to set aside an area for their collection. Some towns have sold these items at a shop at the landfill site that allows local community groups to raise funds from their sale. Contact Green Skills on 9842 1334 for advice on how you can set up a similar system.
- If your community does not already have a waste transfer station or does not actively recycle, encourage your shire to look at the Waste Wise WA website's Country section <<http://www.wastewise.wa.gov.au/pages/rural.asp>>. It gives **suggestions for recycling** and waste management options and the steps needed to promote the service to residents and make it happen. Some of the items you might consider are glass, paper, cardboard, aluminium, plastic and oil.
- Encourage your local government to incorporate a '**Waste Wise Scoreboard**' in your local newspaper that will show residents how much organic or recyclable waste goes to landfill and reductions over time that have resulted from people reusing or reducing the amount of waste they create.



- Work with your local shire to encourage landholders to use **licensed landfill facilities** instead of private property. Examine the suitability of the landfill's opening times and fees to prevent people from illegally dumping waste.
- Many rural shires have become part of the **drumMUSTER** program, a national program for the collection and recycling of empty containers from crop production and farm animal health chemicals. Contact the regional field officer for WA on 9574 6409 or the national office on 02 6230 6712 to find out how your community can get involved. Their website is <<http://www.drummuster.com.au>>.
- Encourage your local shire to adopt the principles of an **Eco-office** as outlined on the Waste Wise WA website <<http://www.wastewise.wa.gov.au/pages/office.asp>>. The website has an environmental management strategy, posters, and staff surveys that can be completed for a particular workplace. It looks at issues such as reducing paper use, energy efficiency, recycling, purchasing and a host of other areas.
- Encourage your shire and community to use and promote **energy efficient building** materials and designs. Contact the Denmark Environment Centre on 9848 1644 for information on their Sustainable Building Expo. For information on solar power and wind generation, ring Peter Stuart at the Murdoch University Environmental Technology Centre on 9360 7310 or visit <<http://www.etc.murdoch.edu.au>>.

## Education/Awareness Programs

- The Bagsmart Campaign helps communities to start community education programs to **reduce plastic bag litter**. Your community can get a free CD on how to start your campaign when you register. Contact Lesley Brooks on 0407 221 854 or Colin Bell on 0415 271 783 or visit <<http://www.bagsmart.com.au/index.php?id=10>>.
- Enlist the support of your local school and community newspapers to get the **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** message out to the community. You might use suggestions from the Waste Wise website <[www.wastewise.wa.gov.au](http://www.wastewise.wa.gov.au)> as a start. You may think of many more ways to reduce waste that can be added to the list.

To reduce means to **cut down the amount of resources** we use each day both as individuals and as a society. Some of the ways this can be done by householders include:

- Switching off lights and appliances that aren't being used.
- Saving water by using reduced flow shower heads, setting up grey water systems for gardens, planting waterwise gardens and using lower water consumption appliances (AAA rated).
- Reducing fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by using alternative modes of transport such as car pooling, cycling or walking.
- Buying products with minimal packaging and using alternatives to single use plastic bags.



- Preparing more meals at home instead of buying convenience foods that contain large amounts of packaging waste.
- Making gifts and cards for family and friends, rather than buying them.
- Growing your own vegetables, fruits and flowers.
- Repairing clothes, toys, tools and appliances rather than replacing them.
- Hiring, sharing and borrowing tools and equipment with friends and neighbours rather than buying new equipment.

Check the Sustainable Energy Development Office's website for **Simple Tips to Save Energy** at <http://www1.sedo.energy.wa.gov.au/pages/simple.asp>.

- Another way to minimise the amount of waste going to landfill is to reuse items you have bought rather than throwing them away. This means that you need to buy new products less often – saving money, space in landfill, energy and resources that would have been used to make a new product. Items that can be reused include:
  - Jars, icecream and yoghurt containers which can be used for storage. Some health food shops may refill these containers.
  - Plastic bags can be reused for many purposes around the home.
  - Ink cartridges and ribbons can be re-filled or re-inked.
- Your TTC could encourage creative ways to **reuse waste items** – we've seen some interesting projects including the use of tractor tyres as garden planters, the use of 44 gallon drums for street tree watering systems and

public sculptures made from old machinery or plough discs.

- Your community could create its own personal **litter awareness message** or slogan that can be used around the town. Students could be involved in this to encourage their participation, and to discourage them from littering.
- Set up a display or information booth at local events such as agricultural shows to promote waste minimisation initiatives happening in the town. The **Waste Wise Display Trailer** can be booked to support these events – phone 9278 0681.
- One way to minimise waste is to look for certain features when you shop. Approach your local supermarket to see whether they can help create a display that sends a '**Shop Smart**' message to consumers. Shop Smart not only has environmental benefits, but also saves money because you get more use out of what you buy and waste disposal costs are reduced.
 

Businesses will produce/sell more environmentally friendly products if consumers demand products that:

  - Have the minimal amount of packaging material
  - Are reusable/refillable
  - Are recyclable
  - Are made from recycled materials.
- If you can't use it, others probably can! See the suggestions in the Community Involvement section for setting up a **collective recycling depot** in your community and refer to the Waste Wise WA website to investigate who can take items you no longer need.

- **Illegal dumping** is the disposal of waste in an area that is not a licensed waste disposal facility. It is both unsightly and unhealthy for the environment. The most commonly dumped materials include abandoned cars, domestic and garden waste, white goods, furniture, tyres, and construction and demolition waste. Recently there has been an increase in the amount of illegally dumped hazardous materials including industrial waste, oil, asbestos and medical waste. The impacts of illegal dumping include the high cost of removing the material, contamination of ground water and water catchments, and the spread of weeds from dumped green waste. Contact the Department of Environment's Illegal Dumping Officer on 9278 0648 for advice on how to educate people that dumping is not acceptable.

### Community Involvement

- Using the Waste Wise website as a guide, establish what **types of waste** are produced in your community. Select a few priority or problematic wastes and find alternative ways to minimise them. Minimising waste conserves valuable resources including minerals, energy, native forests, petroleum and landfill sites.

Reducing waste saves money because:

- Consumers get more out of what they buy.
- Businesses become more efficient.
- Consumers don't need to buy new products as often, so household incomes stretch further.
- Waste disposal costs are reduced.

Waste minimisation protects the environment because:

- Less land is affected by waste disposal or resource extraction.
  - Less fossil fuels are consumed for energy, reducing the release of greenhouse gases and other pollutants.
  - Less landfill wastes and toxic wastes are produced.
- 'Litter attracts litter' – an attractive, unspoiled landscape is less likely to be littered than one that is heavily littered or overgrown with weeds.



Encourage **local clean up days** that coincide with key community events, or combine the day with a sausage sizzle.

- Encourage a local sporting, youth, or church group to establish a **recycling depot** for residents to drop-off recyclable materials. Approximately 20% of solid waste consists of recyclable materials, including paper, cardboard, mixed plastics, aluminium, steel and glass. Use the Waste Wise website to source a contact for a buyer. Some communities have reached agreements with local transport providers to cart materials back to Perth as backload, free of charge.
- If you live in a large town or city where local companies use recycled products, establish a **Community Recycling Directory**. This could list companies and organisations in your town or surrounding towns who accept various materials and could be incorporated into the local phonebook.
- Encourage shopping centres to **reuse plastic bags** or supply alternatives to plastic bags. Some shopping centres have begun selling calico bags with their logo on at a nominal price. In some instances bags have been produced locally and used as a fundraising option for community groups.



- Encourage your local nursery or garden club to have a demonstration on **composting or worm farming** to help reduce the amount of organic or green waste going to landfill. Compost bins and worm farms can be made out of old items such as wooden crates, bathtubs, fridges or sinks. The Waste Wise website has some excellent tips on how to set a system up <<http://www.wastewise.wa.gov.au/pages/households.asp>>. The Permaculture Association of WA may help with technical know how – phone them on 9381 6156.
- Encourage local businesses, offices and industries to examine the waste they produce and look at actions for achieving **cleaner production**. Examples of activities they can undertake are included on the website <<http://www.wastewise.wa.gov.au/index.asp>>. They include the Green Stamp program for the automotive industry; a guide for creating an Environmental Management Plan; details on the National Packaging Covenant; and how to become an Eco-Office, looking at reducing paper use, energy efficiency, recycling, purchasing and a host of other areas.
- Australia's air quality is a precious resource. Did you know that if not used properly, the average home wood heater can emit a lot of pollutants into the air and cause haze? Haze can cause health problems in the young and the elderly, as well as in people with respiratory problems such as asthma. Visit <<http://airquality.environment.wa.gov.au>>. Encourage **alternative means of heating** – visit <[http://www1.sedo.energy.wa.gov.au/pages/home\\_heating.asp](http://www1.sedo.energy.wa.gov.au/pages/home_heating.asp)> or ring the Department of Environment's Air Quality Management Branch on 9278 0617 for brochures.
- If a wood heater is used, ensure it burns more cleanly and efficiently by:
  - Only burning dry and seasoned wood.
  - Never burning treated or painted wood, as these can emit toxic gases.
  - Storing wood stacked loosely under cover in a dry, well ventilated area.
  - Keeping the fire burning brightly by opening up the airflow so it doesn't smoulder and produce smoke. Never damp the fire down by reducing the airflow – allow the fire to go out overnight. A well insulated home will maintain enough heat until the morning.
  - Splitting large logs into smaller ones, as these dry out quicker and produce a better heat when burning.
- Encourage residents to **compost or recycle** as an alternative to backyard burning of waste. If they do have to burn, encourage them to avoid clear and calm nights when the smoke will linger.
- Many country people are heavily reliant on their vehicles, however there may be some times when a car trip is not always necessary. Encourage residents where practical to **walk or cycle** to work, school, shops or the swimming pool. Even if people left their cars at home once a week, it would result in a decrease in air pollution and a safer community.

## 3.2 Natural Heritage Conservation Project Tips

### Concept Plan

- Your community may wish to create its own local **bush management plan** to ensure the protection of natural vegetation, wildlife and other natural features. It has been found that people in towns benefit from daily contact with wildlife and native vegetation in many different ways – for example, trees help reduce levels of airborne pollution; parks provide a welcome escape from vehicles and a stimulating environment for children to play; native gardens provide people with contact with vegetation and local wildlife. Their level of contact with the natural environment determines a larger part of what people in cities call quality of life. Ask a Landcare, Bushcare or Land for Wildlife officer to assist.

### Local Government Support

- Encourage your shire to use **native species** when planting. This will help to preserve the species and provide natural habitats for wildlife. Native species are more suited to the local environment and are water wise. The use of species whose seeds have been collected in that specific area (local provenance seed) is even better. Your local Landcare Coordinator, Bushcare officer or WWF Woodland Watch officer can help you with this. Some towns have developed a local regulation to ensure that any new street trees are native.
- When your local government is undertaking roadside grading, encourage them to leave **strips of native vegetation** to avoid accidental destruction of threatened species. This is especially important as many of our critically endangered wildflowers are now only found on the roadside. The vegetation is also an important wildlife corridor for birds, reptiles and mammals.
- Many visitors to Western Australia are enticed here by the State's unique wildflowers and woodlands. Ask the shire to designate roadside areas as **wildflower drives** or



flora roads. A good example of this is the Midlands Biodiversity Project, which sought to identify roads with high concentrations of wildflowers and native vegetation. A 'Kwongan Connections' Roadmap and website were produced to guide visitors to areas of interest <<http://www.kwongan.asn.au>>.

- Work with your community and local government to develop a **Biodiversity or Green Plan** which will identify and map areas of high conservation or local significance. The maps can then be used by town planners to protect green space or other natural features. For more information contact the Denmark Environment Centre on 9848 1644.
- Some Progress Associations, TTCs or shires have received **grants** from Bushcare, Landcare or Coastwest to improve visitor access at beaches or revegetation projects. Is there is opportunity to undertake similar activities in your community? Contact Greening Australia on 9335 8933, your shire, Department of Agriculture or the State Coastwest Coordinator on 9264 7834 to source funding opportunities.
- A few local governments have adopted suggestions from 'Beyond Roads, Rates and Rubbish', a report by Carl Binning, Mike Young and Emily Cripps for Land and Water Australia (see <<http://www.lwa.gov.au/downloads/PR990332.pdf>>). The document helps local governments to plan policies and work with the community to **conserve native vegetation**. Investigate what your shire's commitment is to

protecting native vegetation and if it has active programs that encourage residents to protect it. Can your TTC influence or lend a hand in conserving native vegetation?

- Work with your shire to develop or implement **public open space plans**. These can serve to protect areas with significant conservation value or create wildlife corridors in residential, industrial and agricultural areas.
- Work with your local shire and community to develop and implement a **management plan for natural areas**. This may include the rehabilitation, management or protection of a woodland, landform, town common, coastal or riparian vegetation in residential, industrial or agricultural areas.
- Encourage your local government to work with the Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment or Department of Conservation and Land Management to identify **feral animals and problem weeds** and find solutions to lessen their impact.
- Pesticides, herbicides and fungicides can cause chemical sensitivity and infertility in humans, and have been linked to the decline in populations of birds and frogs. Check National Toxic Network's website <[www.oztoxics.org/ntn/reducepesticides.html](http://www.oztoxics.org/ntn/reducepesticides.html)> for **Pesticide Reduction Strategies – How to Persuade Your Council** or ring 9305 7875. Many pesticides still used in Australia are banned overseas. Up to date paper copies of Material Safety Data Sheets on all pesticides are available from the manufacturer.

### Community Involvement

- Some communities are fortunate enough to still have areas of natural vegetation that represent the types of plants and animals that have been lost elsewhere due to clearing or development. The local school ground, church, golf course, old homestead, wetland or public open space may harbour important natural assets for the community. Is there an **active program to stop rubbish** or garden weeds invading these areas? Could their removal can be incorporated into regular Tidy Towns



or other community environmental activities? The Environmental Weeds Action Network's website <<http://members.iinet.net.au/~ewan/>> has information on recognising and controlling weeds.

- **Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA)** undertakes many projects restoring natural heritage as part of their regional assistance program. If you require help restoring lakes, coastal dunes or bushland; or building natural heritage trails, structures and interpretive signs, contact CVA on 9336 6911 or e-mail <[perth@conservationvolunteers.com.au](mailto:perth@conservationvolunteers.com.au)>.
- Some towns have created **community nurseries** to grow plants for an arboretum, street trees or landcare efforts. Projects such as these are a great way of involving both younger and older members of the community. If you are going to collect native seed for a school, community or farm nursery project, take a little extra time to find out more about the species of plant. Contact the WA Herbarium on 9334 0500, the Land for Wildlife or Bushcare Officer at your local CALM office; Greening Australia WA on 9335 8933, or Woodland Watch on 9387 6444. Be aware that if seed is collected from a reserve or from a species that is rare, you will need a permit from the Department of Conservation and Land Management – ring 9334 0333.
- Frogs are good indicators of environmental health, as they are very vulnerable to changes in the environment. Encourage members of your community to provide **frog friendly**



**gardens** by visiting <http://heini.museum.wa.gov.au/frogwatch/pages/frames.html> or read their book 'Building Frog Friendly Gardens'.

- Encourage your local schoolchildren to become **CALM Bushrangers**. This program teaches young people to care for the environment through practical projects. This benefits communities and also gives the kids the opportunity to develop teamwork and leadership qualities. Contact the State Coordinator on 9334 0137 or visit <http://www.cadetswa.wa.gov.au/cadets/bush.html>.
- Many species of **birds** occur in close proximity to people in towns and cities, and some species have benefited from this close association and increased in numbers. Sadly, many smaller species have been lost due to such factors as the use of pesticides on lawns or capture by feral cats. Check which birds are likely to occur in your area on the Birds Australia WA website <http://birdswa.iinet.net.au>. You can encourage people to protect and enjoy birds by planting natives in their gardens, using non-toxic means to manage garden pests, placing bells on cats' collars and keeping cats in at night, providing nest boxes in their gardens and protecting nesting sites.
- **Insects** are often important indicators of environmental health as they are near the bottom of the food chain. Insects often benefit from the sheltered and warm climate of the built environment. Encourage residents to take note of the insects in their gardens and encourage the planting of local native vegetation that will attract native bees, beetles, grubs, stick insects and other interesting creatures. These will in turn provide food sources for other native animals such as birds and reptiles.
- In communities affected by drought, some TTCs have encouraged residents act as '**tree wardens**', whereby they adopt a street tree and ensure that it receives adequate watering throughout the dry months. Sometimes schools adopt trees and innovative watering systems have been developed using old drums.
- The **local lake, creek or river** is an important habitat for birds, fish, frogs and aquatic invertebrates. They also provide important places for recreational opportunities such as boating, fishing or picnics. The challenge lies in being able to make use of the wetlands without compromising their ability to support wildlife and maintain a high level of water quality. Wetlands are under threat from a number of factors including grazing cattle, introduced fish, dumping of rubbish, over fishing, dumping of effluent and erosion of banks. Ask the shire if there is a local environment group who protects your local wetlands. TTCs can help by encouraging people not to dump their rubbish and by creating visitor facilities that control access and help people appreciate the wetlands without damaging them. Encourage the local school to contact Ribbons of Blue on 9278 0646 to start a local project monitoring water quality.
- Many native animals use fallen logs and debris as homes and collecting firewood may be destroying their habitat. Encourage residents to leave **hollow logs** alone, whether they are standing or lying. Ask them to try to take small diameter solid pieces of wood instead of large diameter hollows. For further information visit the Department of Environment and Heritage's website at <http://www.deh.gov.au/land/pressures/firewood>.

### Promotion of Values to Residents and Visitors

- Find out if there is a group in your area working on **threatened species** such as malleefowl, pythons, ground parrots or chuditch and if your TTC can visit the group's next project. Some TTCs have incorporated images of their local threatened species into murals, signs



or town logos. Ring the State Threatened Species Network Coordinator for further details 9387 6444, or your local Department of Conservation and Land Management.

- Most shires have a **floral emblem**, usually chosen because it is unique to or common in the shire. Promote it so that it is well known! This could be done on letterhead, street signs, or even by planting projects around town. Use your floral emblem to help educate the community about conserving native flora generally.
- The creation and promotion of **nature trails** encourages communities to take an interest in wildlife, landforms and native vegetation. The use of interpretive signage along nature trails allows visitors and locals to find out a bit more about the local environment and appreciate the uniqueness of the area. By drawing attention to its values, it will also help people appreciate the need for it to be respected and conserved. Some TTCs have worked with their local government to develop trails as part of a town common or community woodland project or to showcase a natural feature such as a granite outcrop, orchids, wreath-flowers or creek-line. Is there an opportunity to promote bushland near your town to help others appreciate our natural heritage?
- Encourage your community to create a **threatened species garden**. Some Wheatbelt towns have created gardens for visitors to appreciate the unique wildflowers in their area. Having representative samples of these species in a secure environment also helps to protect the species from becoming extinct in the wild.
- If you run a local garden competition, make sure there is a section for **wildlife-friendly**



**gardens.** You could also invite a guest speaker to educate people on how to grow local natives and promote wildlife-friendly gardens to your next Tidy Towns or Garden Club meeting. The WA Naturalists Club (phone 9228 2495 or <<http://www.wanats.iinet.net.au>>) may be able to recommend someone. Build on your efforts by having a naturalist walk in a local patch of bushland to show residents first-hand how wildlife interacts with native vegetation.

- Your local garden centre may help you promote natural heritage conservation by hosting awareness events on **growing native species**, distributing publicity leaflets or stocking garden wildlife products such as nest boxes and wildflower seed mixes. Another important role they can play is providing advice on how to prevent the garden species from becoming environmental weeds. Some daisies, bulbs, herbs, and plants that are prolific seeders are prime candidates for escaping gardens and taking over native bushland.



### 3.3 Cultural Heritage Conservation Project Tips

#### Concept Plan

Our cultural heritage includes those places and events which define what it means to be Australian and provide a living and accessible record of our indigenous and non-indigenous cultural history. It may comprise places, buildings, objects, events, cultural practices, stories, records and other more intangible values.

TTCs may be involved in preserving our built environment through protecting public, private and commercial buildings, bridges, wells, streetscapes, relics, military installations, cemeteries, statues, jetties, gardens and so on.

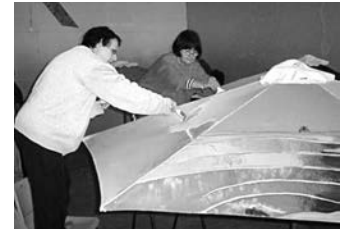
#### Local Government Support

- Make contact with your community development officer or shire to see how your committee can contribute to your local **Townscape or Community Development Plan**. This will ensure that ideas put forward will allow for the cultural attributes most valued by the community to be protected by future planning.
- Find out if your shire has a **Municipal Inventory for Heritage**. This inventory lists all the sites that are, or might become, important sites of cultural heritage significance. If your shire doesn't have an inventory prepared, see if there is an opportunity to host a workshop to identify areas of significance. The Heritage Council provides an advisory service – call 1800 644 177 or <[http://www.heritage.wa.gov.au/e\\_pub\\_list.html](http://www.heritage.wa.gov.au/e_pub_list.html)>.

- Encourage your shire to start a **heritage awards** program to recognise community efforts in restoring heritage sites such as shop facades, old buildings, machinery collections, grain receival points, verandahs, jetties, gardens, wells, statues or other important sites.
- Investigate if your shire has a **Cultural Plan** to help your community appreciate and conserve its cultural heritage. Cultural planning has the ability to create partnerships between community, local government and industry and uses a technique called 'cultural mapping' to grow community capacity and spirit. Through the process of cultural mapping, community members identify and document local cultural resources such as galleries, craft industries, distinctive landmarks, local events and industries, as well as intangibles like memories, personal histories, attitudes and values. The Community Arts Network can help you gain the necessary resources – call 1800 681 021.
- Encourage your shire to investigate opportunities for **hosting local celebrations**, festivals or concerts that attract visitors to the town and recognise culturally significant events or traditions in the community. It is always best to seek advice from those who have done it before and contacting another shire that has put on a similar event can give you great information. It would also be valuable to contact Country Arts WA on Freecall 1800 811 883 to find out what technical or financial assistance is available.

## Community Involvement

- Many regional people have a strong sense of place and there are some excellent efforts being undertaken to preserve old buildings and other built structures throughout the state. The formation of a **historical society** can help individuals to join together to undertake heritage surveys of the town and ultimately ensure the preservation and restoration of historic sites. More information on how to preserve sites can be gained from the National Trust by phoning 9321 6088 or contact the Heritage Council of WA at <[http://www.heritage.wa.gov.au/e\\_pub\\_list.html](http://www.heritage.wa.gov.au/e_pub_list.html)> or 1800 644 177.
- In the past, Australia's Aboriginal heritage has too often been forgotten or overlooked. Therefore the passing on of **traditions and oral histories** should be encouraged. To find out if there are any cultural sites in your area that can be conserved or recognised, contact the Department of Indigenous Affairs on 9235 8052, or your closest regional office: Midland 9274 4288, Bunbury 9791 8433, Albany 9842 3000, Northam 9621 2154, Geraldton 9921 7131, Kalgoorlie 9021 5666 or Broome 9192 2865.
- The **local cemetery** is an important source of cultural history that is often neglected. The ages and nationalities of people buried there often tell an interesting story and this information should be recorded. If your cemetery has a number of unmarked graves or could benefit from some attention, see if there is a local group which may be interested in researching the history of the area and restoring some of the headstones. The Battye Library and shire office are good starting points to research past residents or settlers in the area. The Battye Library collects and provides access to Western Australia's published documentary heritage as well as collections of original historical records. Contact them on 1800 198 107 or visit <<http://www.lis.wa.gov.au/battye.html>>.
- If your community has a museum or wants to create one, you may benefit from contacting



the **WA Museum Assistance Program**. Staff are available to visit community based museums throughout the state to provide advice and training on how to create your own museum, care for collections and they can provide referrals to other agencies that can provide further assistance. Ring them on Freecall 1800 023 333.

- Some communities have prepared **oral histories or books** to record their cultural or historical value. Combined with photographs, they can provide a valuable reference for how the community has progressed over the decades. Is there a group in your community that is interested in undertaking this research? It could be a worthwhile school project that can be displayed at a suitable community event or gallery. The Battye Library may be an excellent



source of reference materials. Contact them on 1800 198 107 or visit <<http://www.liswa.wa.gov.au/battye.html>>.

- **Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA)** undertakes many projects restoring old buildings or constructing public facilities. Contact them on 9336 6911 or e-mail <[perth@conservationvolunteers.com.au](mailto:perth@conservationvolunteers.com.au)>.

### Promotion of Values to Residents and Visitors

- Encourage your local newspaper to **interview older residents** and print stories that tell the community about the history of the area.
- There are many ways of celebrating a **community's culture** – such as through visual arts, theatre, dance, creative writing, music, multimedia or film. Country CAPS (Community Arts Program Scheme) is designed to assist community organisations and groups to take an active role in the development of arts activity in their own community. Some projects are eligible for up to \$2000 funding. Contact Country Arts WA on Freecall 1800 811 883.
- Investigate whether there is an opportunity to **display old photographs or stories** of the region's early days in a local shop, community meeting place or during a festival to educate the community about their cultural heritage.

- Is there an opportunity to profile your community's cultural heritage as part of an **entry statement** welcoming visitors to town? Some have done this through the use of a slogan, old farm machinery or sculpture.
- A **heritage or interpretative trail** may be an excellent way to help visitors appreciate the cultural significance of your town. Some excellent heritage trails have been set up around the state, following early stock or trading routes, watering points, early settlement sites, military sites, aboriginal sites, gaols, churches, or farming endeavours. Is there an opportunity to set a trail up in your community? Contact the Heritage Council of WA on 1800 644 177 or visit <[http://www.heritage.wa.gov.au/e\\_pub\\_list.html](http://www.heritage.wa.gov.au/e_pub_list.html)>.
- Encourage local businesses to adopt **signage or paint work on shop facades** that is symbolic of the community's cultural heritage.
- Encourage a **display of local artwork** at a gallery or other suitable meeting place that shows landscapes or activities indicative of the community's heritage.
- If your community is planning to paint a **mural** or create a **mosaic**, encourage them to incorporate a cultural heritage theme. Contact Country Arts WA on Freecall 1800 811 883 to find out what technical or financial assistance is available.



### 3.4 Fresh Water Conservation Project Tips

#### Concept Plan

A ten to fifteen per cent decrease in rainfall since the mid 1970s has demonstrated how vulnerable we are to climate change. There is an urgent need to become smarter in the way that we use and reuse our water.

Significant parts of WA's dryland areas are not connected to a scheme water supply and instead rely on small dams and ground water. This is of particular relevance to Tidy Towns participants who seek to beautify their gardens and parklands – all of which are potentially high water use activities if the 'Water Wise' message is not adhered to.

- Work with your local government, Department of Environment office or Water Corporation office to see how you can put a plan together for **conserving water** in your community and changing behaviour.

- **Water Wise tips** can be obtained from the WA Government's excellent website at <<http://www.ourwaterfuture.com.au/home.asp>>. There are fact sheets on water wise garden designs, rebates available for water saving devices and a copy of the State Water Strategy.

#### Local Government Support

- Investigate what your shire is doing to address the effects of **salinity** and rising water tables on town infrastructure. Many communities are taking action against townsite salinity by joining the Department of Agriculture's Rural Towns Program. Contact the Department of Agriculture on 9368 3919 for more information, or visit <[http://agspsrv34.agric.wa.gov.au/environment/townsite\\_salinity/index.htm](http://agspsrv34.agric.wa.gov.au/environment/townsite_salinity/index.htm)>.
- Suggest that your shire installs **automatic irrigation**, such as drip feed systems, in public gardens to save water. The systems need



to be regularly monitored to minimise water wastage.

- Check that your shire **mulches** its garden beds – this dramatically reduces the amount of water needed and moisture lost to evaporation.
- Encourage your shire to provide rebates for, or promote the use of, approved **grey water treatment and reuse systems** in resident's homes. Grey water is waste water diverted from the kitchen, bathroom and laundry. It can be collected by a reuse system, or simply bucketed, and used to water the garden, thereby saving scheme water supplies. Further information on grey water use can be obtained from the Department of Health's 'Draft Guidelines for the Reuse of Grey Water in Western Australia' which can be downloaded from <<http://www.health.wa.gov.au/publications>> or by contacting Waste Water Management on 9388 4932. See also <[http://www.ourwaterfuture.com.au/waterwise/content\\_waterwise\\_inside.asp](http://www.ourwaterfuture.com.au/waterwise/content_waterwise_inside.asp)>.
- Encourage your shire to liaise with local mineral, fishing, agricultural or horticultural industries to investigate ways of using **re-claimed water** to decrease pressure on scheme supplies.
- Many communities effectively use treated waste water to irrigate parks, ovals and public gardens. However, in the winter months, the demand for water may be significantly

lessened, and sometimes this treated waste water is discharged under licence into a natural water course. Building a storage dam is a good option, but an alternative is to create a **wetland to store the water**. It will attract wildlife and when the water does discharge it will be of better quality. Encourage your shire to contact the local Department of Environment office for advice.

- Encourage your shire to investigate **water harvesting** from areas such as storage bins and large sealed or bituminised areas. Many communities have a combined system where stormwater is blended with treated effluent for use on ovals and parks.
- Encourage your shire to undertake a **water audit** of all public and sporting facilities. Particular attention could be paid to: retrofitting dual flush toilets; installing AAA rated water efficient shower heads; fitting flow restrictors/aerators to tap spouts in internal sinks and basins; repairing any leaking taps; fitting bleed valves to air conditioners; checking and adjusting reticulation systems; installing tap timers; and ensuring outside taps are tamper-proof to prevent wastage.
- Encourage your shire to provide **rebates or other incentives** for residents to reduce lawns and replace gardens with water wise plants. Shires could look at forming partnerships with local garden or landscaping services to provide water wise plants or mulch up to a nominal value.
- Encourage your shire to replace its own gardens with a **water wise demonstration garden** to set a good example to residents. Hints and plans for establishing water wise gardens can be obtained from the 'Our Water Future' website <[http://www.ourwaterfuture.com.au/waterwise/menu\\_garden.asp](http://www.ourwaterfuture.com.au/waterwise/menu_garden.asp)>.
- Enlist the support of the shire to help your community to stick to sprinkler bans or allocated watering days to help **reduce water usage**. Additionally, encourage the use of rainwater tanks or other water harvesting measures.

## Community Involvement

- When establishing a garden, **local native plants** are often not appreciated for how much water they save and how beautiful they can look. If public areas are dedicated to using natives, it may be possible to change public opinion so that natives species are used more often.
- **Water wise gardens** are gardens that use native plants where possible, in preference to exotics that require a lot of water. Reducing areas of lawn is also important, as lawns are where the majority of our garden water is used. Other ideas are to use compost and mulch to keep moisture in the soil, reducing the need to water as often. Plans and tips for creating a water wise gardens can be obtained from <[http://www.ourwaterfuture.com.au/waterwise/menu\\_garden.asp](http://www.ourwaterfuture.com.au/waterwise/menu_garden.asp)>.
- Encourage members of your community to undertake **household water audits** by using the Water Wise Calculator at <[http://www.ourwaterfuture.com.au/waterwise/content\\_waterwise\\_calculator.asp](http://www.ourwaterfuture.com.au/waterwise/content_waterwise_calculator.asp)>. This will help them to work out how much water they use, and suggest options for reducing their consumption and water bills. Encourage local businesses and industry to undertake a similar water audit. This may be a good project to suggest to schools.

## Innovative Methods

- Regional Western Australians have shown themselves to be leaders in conserving water and reuse about 40% of all municipal



waste water. The WA Water Corporation reports that this is an extremely high level and compares more than favourably with elsewhere in Australia. If your community has an **innovative means** of reducing water consumption, recycling or reusing water, let us know – we would love to share your stories with the rest of the state.

- If you live in a particularly dry region and reticulation isn't a viable option due to birds, heat, ants, or lack of water pressure, you may want to **trial new ways** of watering plants using drums with trickle systems or other innovative systems.
- If you do not have access to scheme water in your community, look at ways of **decreasing the loss of water** from tanks or dams through evaporation. Investigate water harvesting options such as storm water run-off, roof run-off or catchment areas that can be used to collect water for gardens.
- If you live in a remote community, you could contact your **Environmental Health Worker or shire Environmental Health Officer** for help forming a plan for conserving water. These people have been trained in a variety of areas, including safe water collection, treatment for water borne diseases and

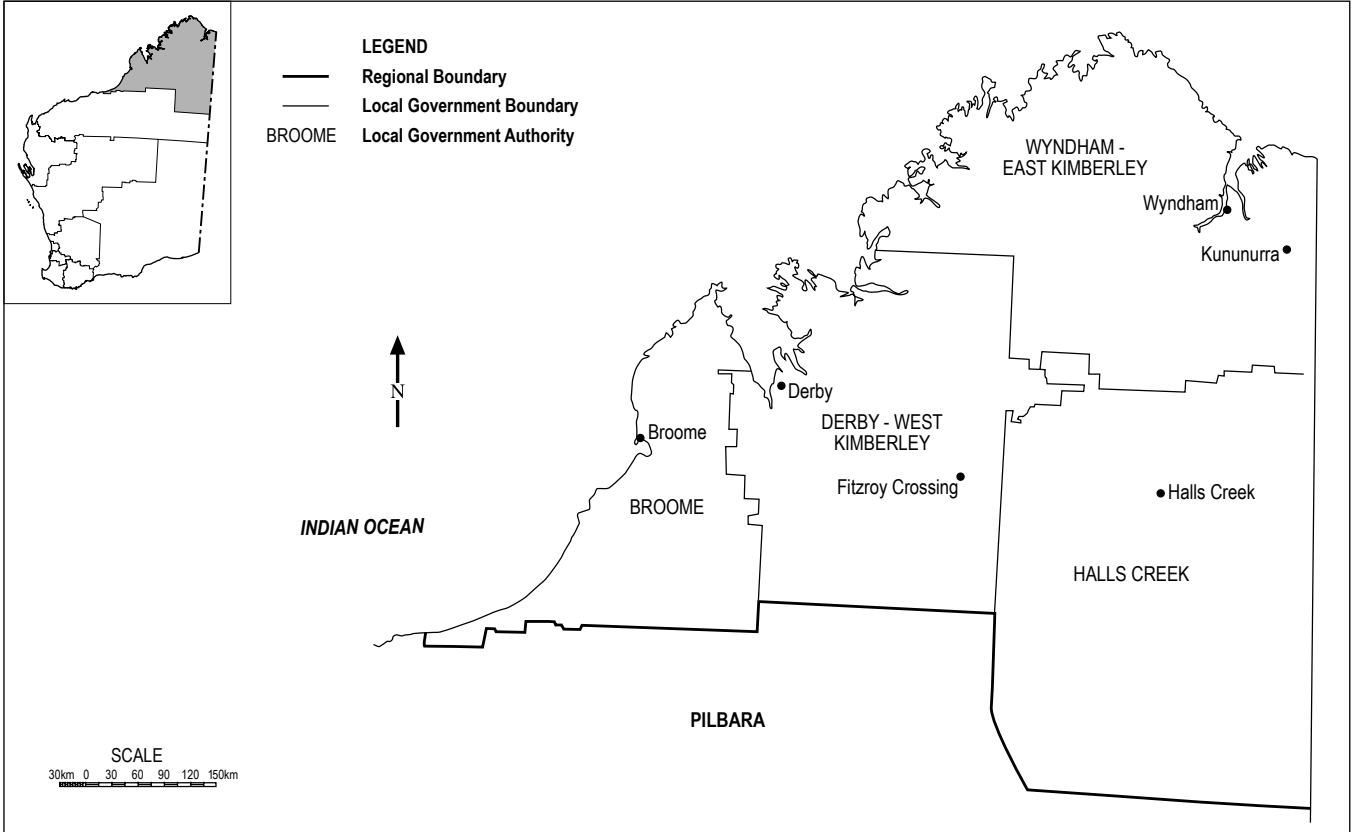
the maintenance of water pipes, aerators and filters. They can help to set up suitable sewerage systems, or toilets that use less water such as composting or dual flush toilets. They can also advise on lagoon and grey water systems.

There are many great ideas coming from all over the state – the tips in this book are just a few suggestions. If you have got some good ideas, please let us know so we can share them amongst other Tidy Towns.

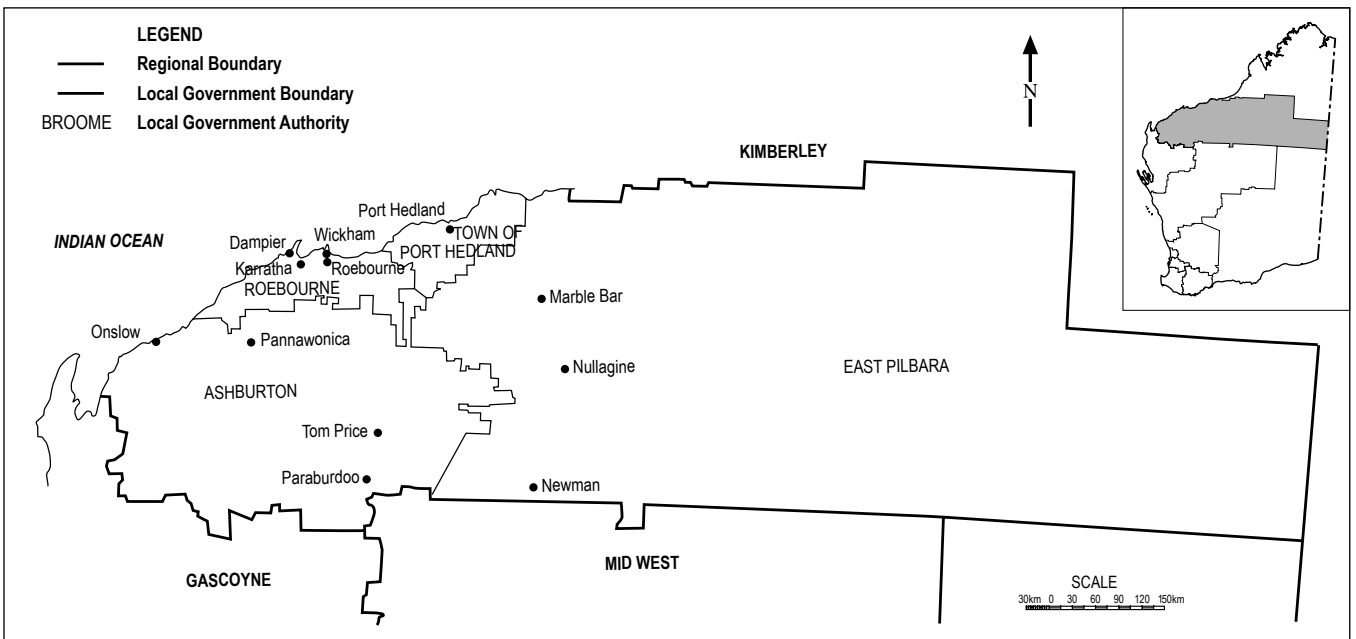
Or if you have some thoughts on how this book could be a more useful resource, please contact the State Program Manager on 9278 0684.

# Appendix 1

## Tidy Towns Regional Maps

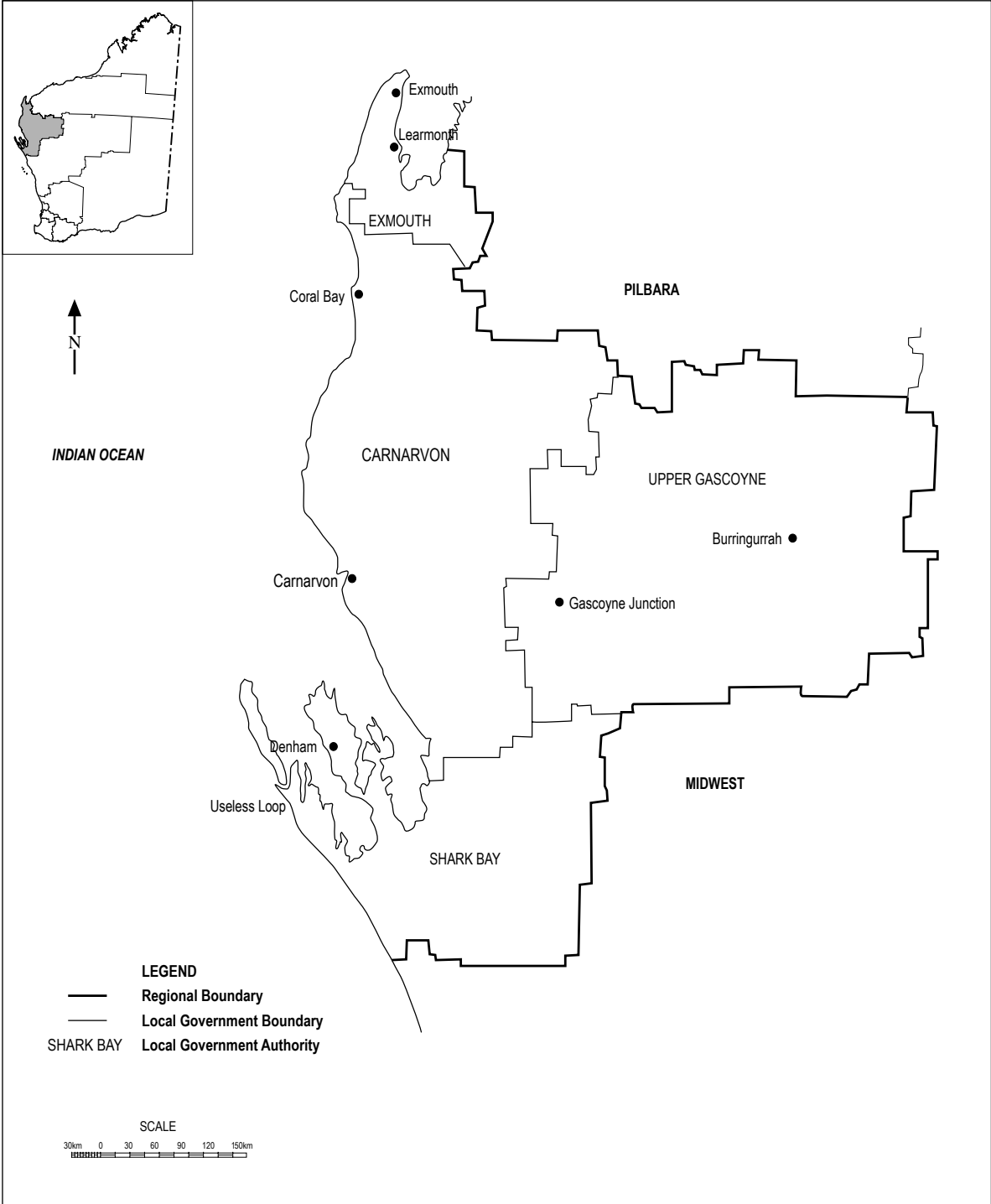


Kimberley

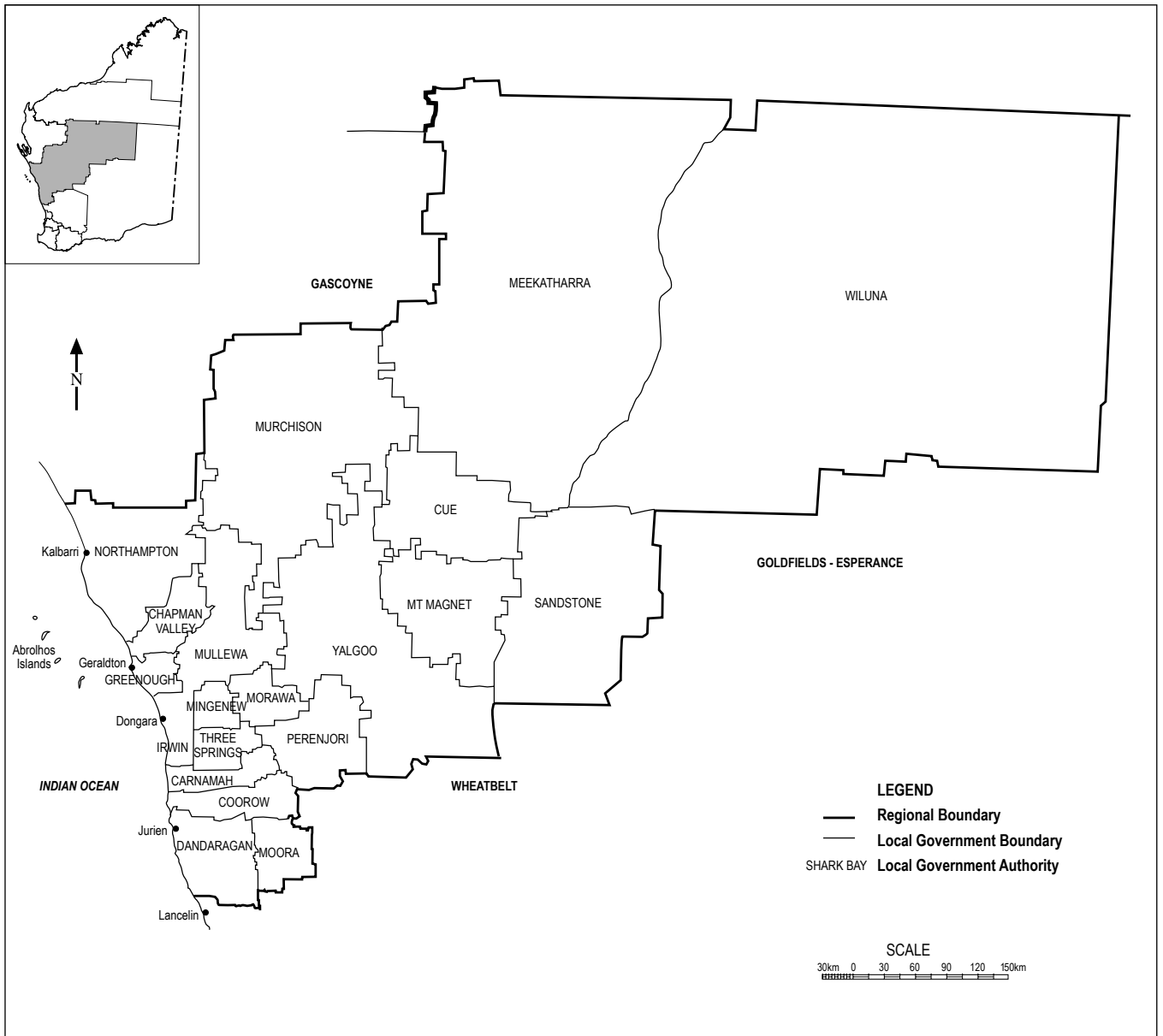


Pilbara

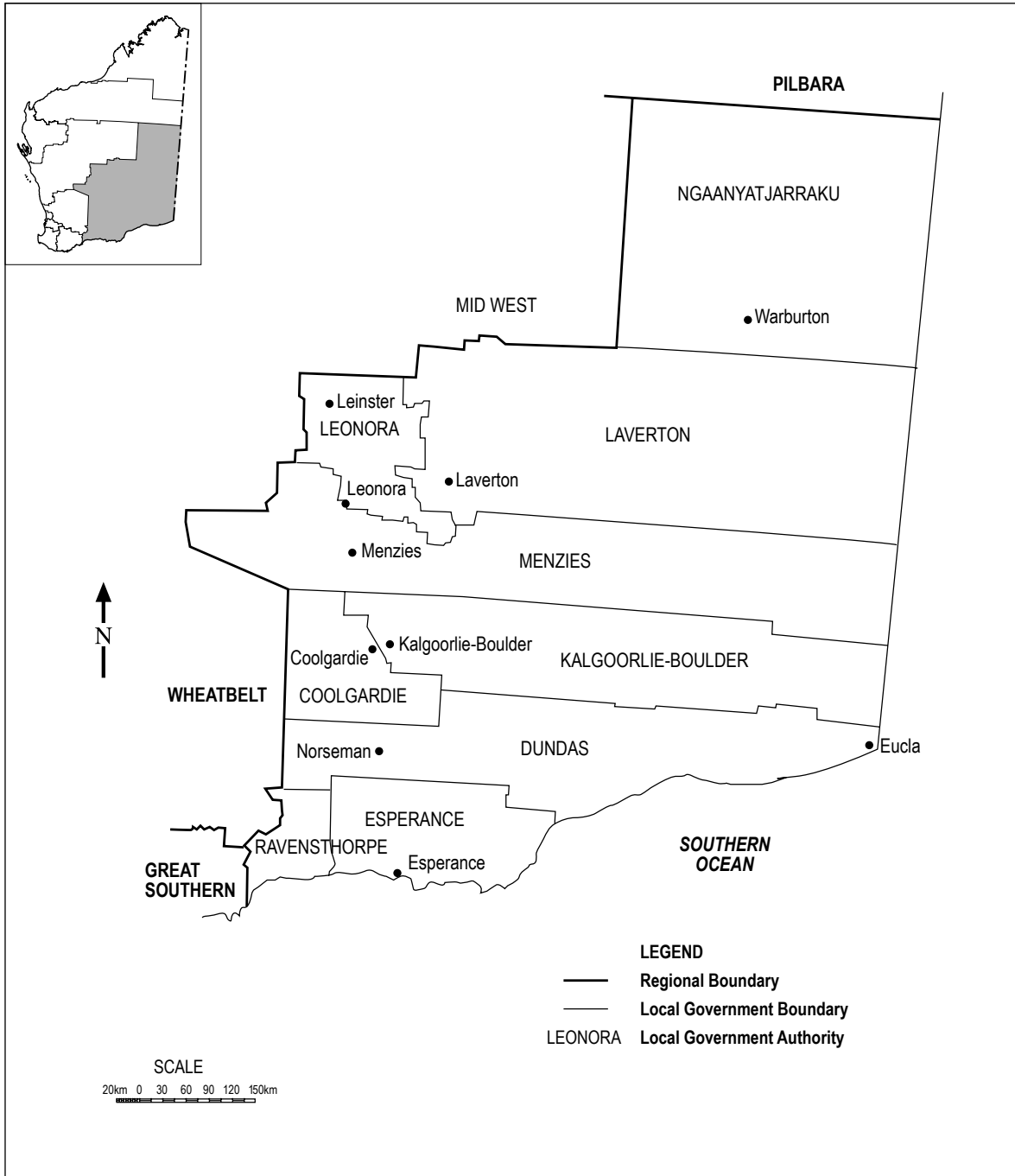




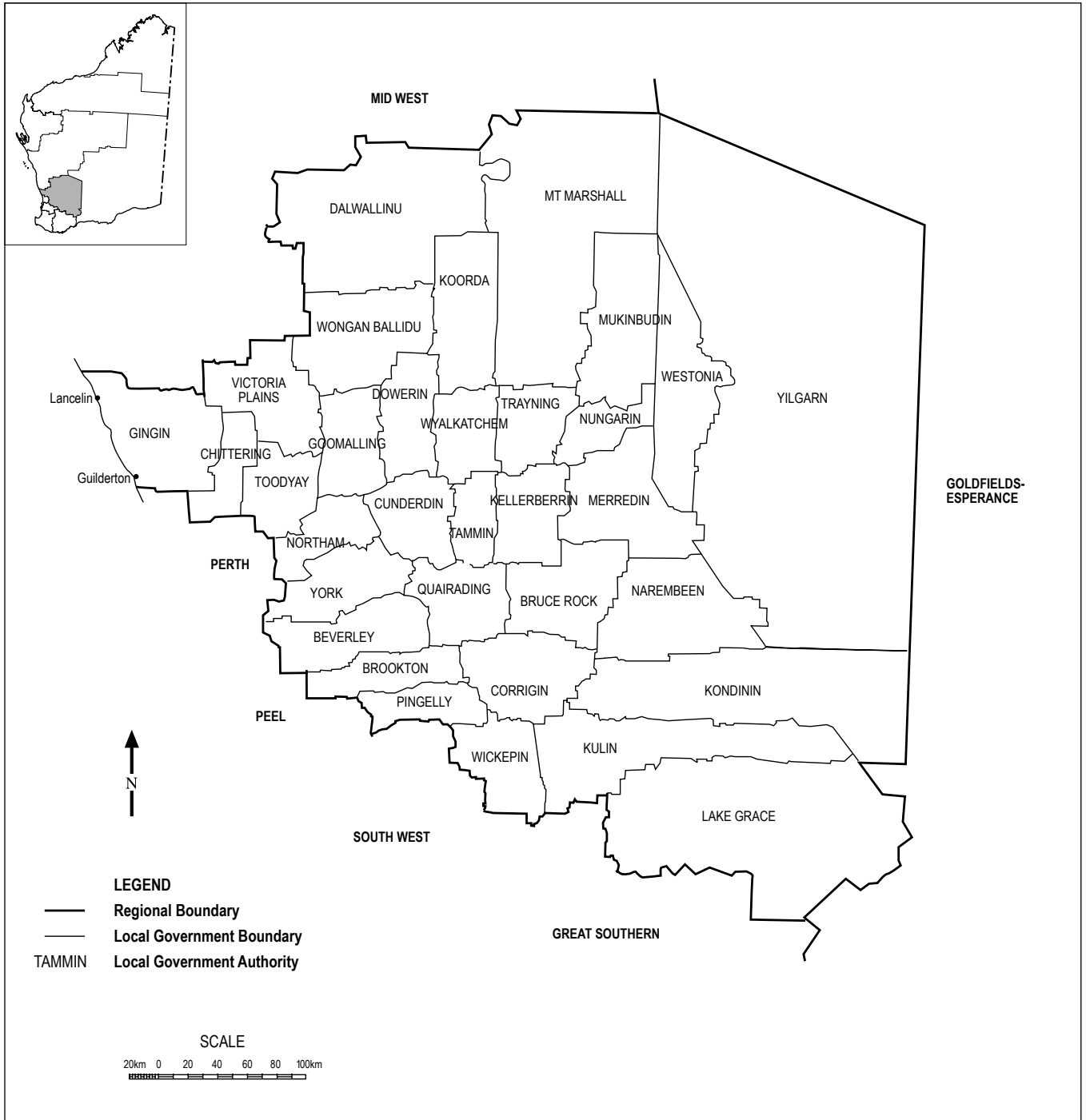
Gascoyne



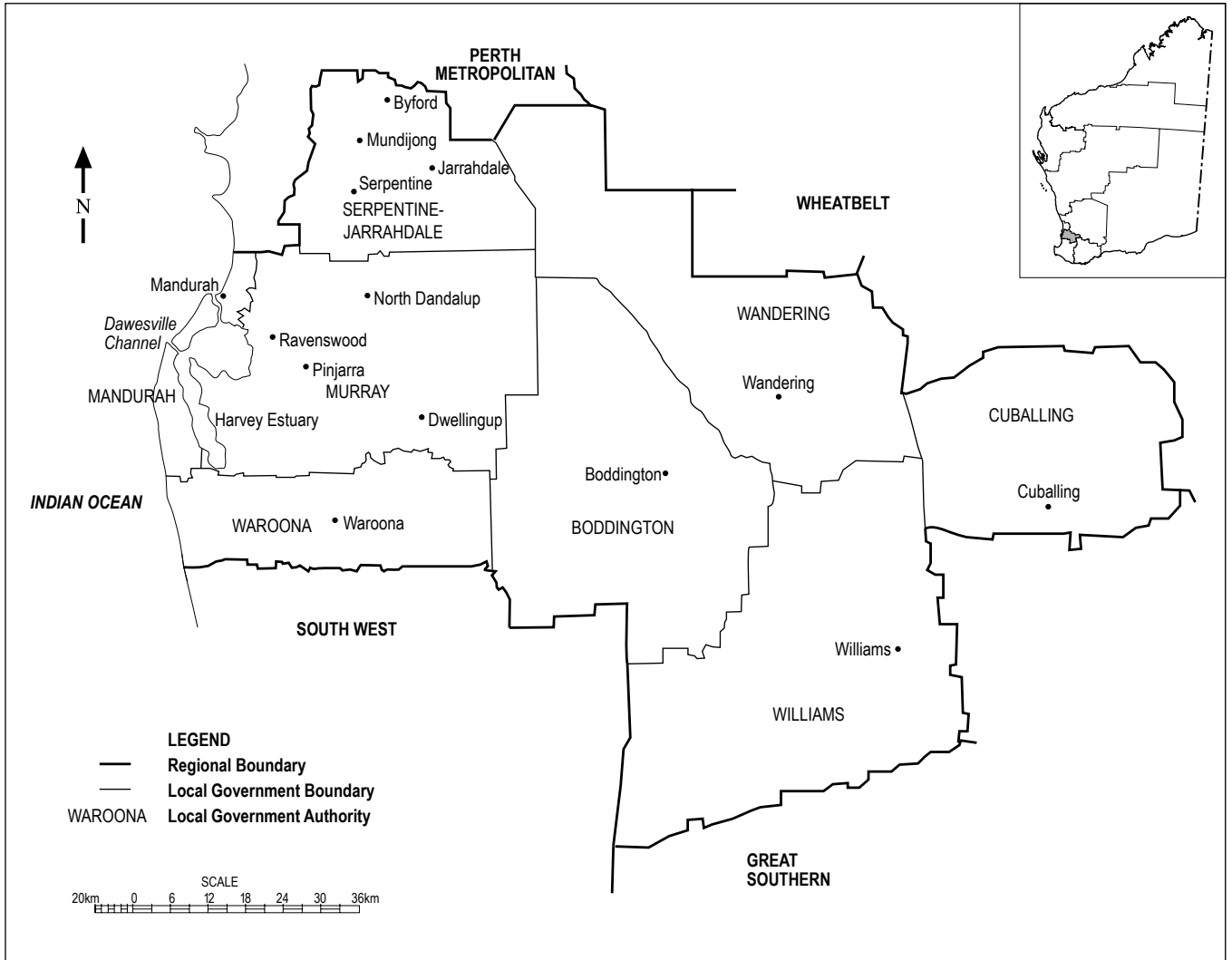
## Mid West



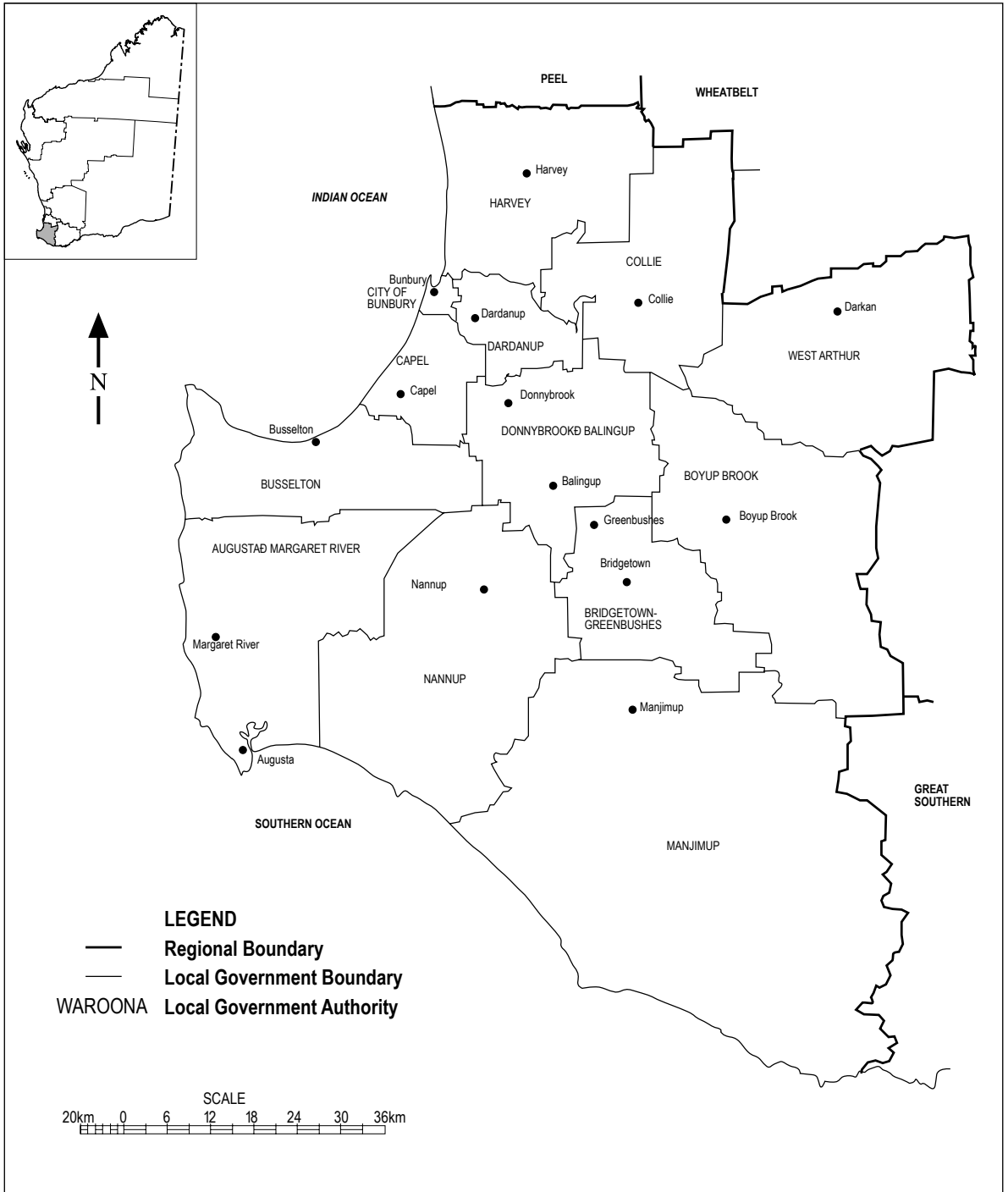
### Goldfields – Esperance



## Wheatbelt



Peel



South West