

Greenbushes

Community Development Action Plan

GREENBUSHES



June 2025

Foreword



Motivated by a desire to foster community connection, a wider group came together to form the Bridgetown-Greenbushes Activate Team. This team collaborated to design a program that featured training sessions, events encouraging community and business partnerships, and small focus groups—all of which helped shape a ‘Community Development Action Plan’ for the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes.

However, due to the diversity of the two towns of Bridgetown and Greenbushes, each town was given the opportunity to create their own plan.

With that in mind, this ‘Community Development Action Plan’ is for Greenbushes, and we acknowledge and are grateful for the support of all our funders who made “Activate Greenbushes” possible: Rural Aid, Peter Kenyon from the Bank of I.D.E.A.S., the Bridgetown-Greenbushes Activate Team, the Greenbushes CRC and the Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development.

This ‘Community Development Action Plan’ acts as a strategic guide for our shared vision, defining specific objectives and initiatives to support the continuous development and vitality of our community.

It is our great hope that this ‘Community Development Action Plan’ is embraced by our community, including the local government and organisations, as an opportunity for change and growth. We hope it encourages social inclusion, safeguards our environment, and expands our economy whilst keeping our small-town vibe that is welcoming and where all people belong.

Thank-you to everyone in the community who took the time to help create this ‘Community Development Action Plan’ and we welcome the opportunities and challenges ahead.

This plan is developed by the community for the Greenbushes community, and we are excited to see who will come along on this journey with us in making Greenbushes more viable and lively for future generations to come.

Our Story

Greenbushes, situated in the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes in Western Australia, 242km south of Perth, is an historic mining town with a rich heritage. Located in the picturesque South West region, Greenbushes is known for its significant mining history, stunning natural surroundings and strong community spirit.

The area has been home to the Noongar People for thousands of years, with deep cultural and spiritual connections to the land. In fact, Greenbushes was the meeting place for three Noongar clans – Kaneang, Pibelmen and Wadandi people.

European settlement began in the late 19th century, spurred by the discovery of tin in 1888. The town was officially gazetted in 1889 and the Greenbushes tin field became one of the most productive in Australia. By the early 1900s the town had expanded rapidly, with the establishment of hotels, schools, and community halls to support the growing population. By 1907 there were 3000 people living in Greenbushes.

Greenbushes' mining industry continued to evolve, with lithium mining emerging as a significant economic driver from the late 20th century. Greenbushes is home to the world's highest grade hard rock lithium resource and the Greenbushes Lithium Mine is now largest private sector employer in the South West.

Beyond mining, Greenbushes boasts a strong forestry and agricultural sector, with dairy farming and fruit orchards contributing to the local economy. The town is also known for its breathtaking landscapes, including the Greenbushes Pool and the Bibbulmun Track, which attract nature lovers and hikers.

Greenbushes' community remains active and engaged, and continually seeks to build upon its physical and economic assets, while retaining its small town charm and sense of community.



Our Vision

A Vision Statement is a vivid description of what our community aspires to become, without its current barriers, but tied to what we value as a community.

The statement below is our intended outcome:

Greenbushes is a vibrant, welcoming country town for all generations to live, work, play, connect and support each other, appreciating the unique heritage, natural beauty and community spirit.

Our Guiding Values

Guiding values are the fundamental, moral, and ethical beliefs that we share as a community. They represent core principles and capture what our community considers important. They help foster trust, respect, collaboration, and unity.

The following six guiding values and attitudes provide the context for our community's identified actions and initiatives, namely:

- **Resilience:** Maintaining positive and can-do attitudes and behaviours to deal with adversity and change.
- **Small-town Lifestyle and Vibe:** Retaining our country way of life, resident connections, friendliness, and rural and natural landscapes.
- **Protect our Heritage:** Appreciating our unique history, stories and traditions and their importance in community and economic development.
- **Protect our Environment:** Valuing and protecting our beautiful natural environment and its diverse and prolific wildlife.
- **Sense of Community:** Ensuring our community is a place where people care, connect and can contribute.
- **Intergenerational Connections:** Creating opportunities for all ages in our community to share, support and learn from each other.



Our Goals

Community goals are broad statements of intent that direct our efforts towards accomplishing our vision in line with our guiding principles.

Below are the five community goals which guide our community aspirations, namely:

- To actively promote and showcase our community as a great place to live, work & play especially through a vibrant and welcoming town centre.
- To preserve, maintain and strengthen our community assets and heritage.
- To raise the Greenbushes profile as a place to stop, stay and experience.
- To create an inclusive community environment where people of all ages feel involved, supported and empowered.
- To develop our resilience in the face of climate change.



Our Challenges

Like many small inland rural communities, our community needs to respond creatively to a series of demographic, social, economic and environmental challenges. These issues include:

- Unsafe and unmaintained footpaths
- Flood mitigation on Blackwood Road
- Bridgetown-centric nature of Shire and lack of Shire presence in town
- Ageing population – the average age of 58 years compared to state and national averages of 38 years
- Loss of visiting doctor
- Drought/climate change – low water levels, dry state of ovals
- Loss of sporting teams, especially for teenagers
- Time it takes Council to finish jobs
- Loss of café – its caring factor and ‘bumping space’ function
- Lack of life in the main street
- Volunteer fatigue and ‘same old face’ syndrome
 - Lack of resident engagement and interaction
 - Declining volunteerism including COVID habitation where activities are not restarting and volunteers are not re-engaging
- Tired signage
- Lack of regular community fun and family events
- Mine expansion resulting in mine dust, noise and light pollution and increased truck use
- Attraction and retention of skilled labour – competition with mine rates
- Lack of police presence and slow response rate
- Shire charges fees for use of Thomson Park for events
- Lack of town welcome pack and welcome to new resident events
- Lack of town map
- Business loss and service gaps
- Declining school numbers
- Lack of childcare & vacation care options
- Lack of affordable rental accommodation
- State of Greenbushes pool
- Poor phone and internet connectivity
- Limited visitation to Discovery Centre as it relies on volunteers to operate
- Limited & expensive public transport options
- Limited playground facilities at Thomson Park
- Dangerous town entrances
- Limited expenditure by free campers in town
- Lack of integration between Greenbushes and North Greenbushes
- Lack of building for Playgroup to operate
- Closure of Bridgetown Camp School and impact on school student visits to Discovery Centre

Our Assets

Social Networks

People

- Population of 365 residents, 93 families
- Noongar People and connection
- Large retired population, former residents
- Locals always willing to talk
- 35 school students
- Teachers
- Homeschooling community (20+ families)
- Local business owners, tradespeople, and farmers
- CWA Belles
- Volunteers – Op Shop, Greenbushes Eco-Cultural Discovery Centre, Sporting Club, Bush Fire Brigade, Golf Club, Community Garden, churches, Community Shed, P&C
- Greenbushes CRC Committee and staff
- Musicians, artists, acoustic group
- Activate team
- Talison Support Program
- Talison Community Advisory Committee
- Railway Station Work Group
- North Greenbushes community
- Blackwood Basin Group
- 'Councillor on the House' sessions
- Local council representation

- Sports & Recreation: Greenbushes Golf Club, Shamrock Sporting Club, Darts competitions, Netball team, Pilates
- Community & Volunteer Groups: Greenbushes CWA Belles – 28 members, Greenbushes Community Garden, Community Garden Seed Bank, Greenbushes Community Shed, Greenbushes Eco-Cultural Discovery Centre Inc., Greenbushes Tidy Towns Committee
- Veterans & Senior Support: Greenbushes RSL Sub-branch, Greenbushes Aged Community Committee, Greenbushes Retirees League
- Children's Activities: Greenbushes Playgroup, Greenbushes Pre Kindy Playgroup, Greenbushes Primary School P&C, Greenbushes Rhyme Time
- Hobby & Social Groups: Friday Activity Club, Book Club, Craft Club, Holiday programs, Weekly card games
- Faith-Based Networks: Anglican and Catholic Church services, Churches (St Barnabas Anglican and St Patrick's Catholic), St Barnabas Anglican Guild and Op Shop
- Freemasons
- Community Pantry
- Greenbushes-Balingup Newsletter
- Facebook sites, Community noticeboard

Physical

- Small town vibe
- Highest town on the Darling Scarp
- Property Infrastructure: Mainstreet businesses, empty shops, North Greenbushes Mill industrial site, 206 private dwellings, Community District Hall, RSL Hall
- Cool Space @ the CRC facility
- Greenbushes Community Garden and Town Square
- Heritage Buildings & Sites Greenbushes Eco-Cultural Discovery Centre, old post office, old bank, pubs (x2), churches, old pavilion, North Greenbushes railway station, old courthouse and post office, old goal, war memorial, old police station and house, Cosy Corner Store, Masonic Lodge, old hospital, old mining shafts, Mine Long Tunnel, Greenbushes Well, Greenbushes Eco-Cultural Discovery Centre
- Recreation: Greenbushes pool, basketball/tennis courts, Thomson Park – junior playground, oval, gazebo, BBQ, unisex toilets, skate park, pump track
- Heritage Park
- Environment & Nature: Dumpling Gully, Vulcan Dam, Spring Gully, farmlands, jarrah mallee forest, rural landscapes, Blackwood River connection, Wildlife & flora, Schwenke's Dam and bird conservation boardwalk
- Walking Trails: Heritage Amble, Waterbird Walking Trail, Mining Heritage Walking Trail, New Zealand Gully Walk, Greenbushes Loop Walk, Greenbushes Pool Boardwalk, Two connections to the Bibbulmun Track – Greenbushes Loop
- Railway line
- Mine lookout
- Cemetery

Our Assets

Economic

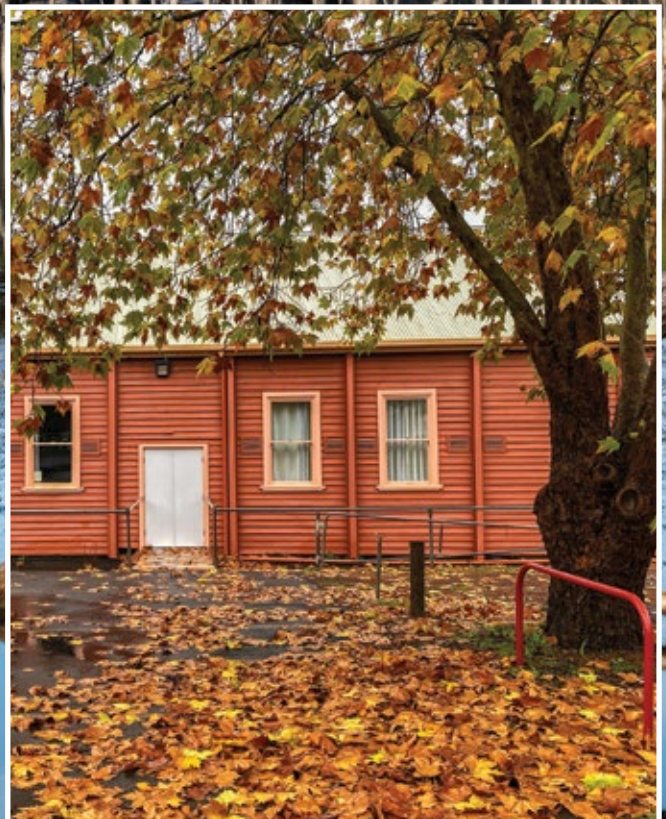
- Main Street Businesses: Post Office, hotels X2, roadhouse/Caltex fuel, op shop, coffee van, CRC coffee service
- Talison Lithium – mine site, worker accommodation, offices, workshops
- Home to the world's highest grade hard rock lithium resource
- Mechanic, carpenter, glazier
- Maranup Ford Caravan Park
- BMI Logistics depot for parcels at post office
- Greenbushes CRC business services
- North Greenbushes Mill industrial site
- Two free camping areas
- School & community group visits to Greenbushes Eco-Cultural Discovery Centre
- Bus service
- Free bus subsidy from Talison Mine
 - Shamrock Hotel free shuttle bus
 - TransWA ticketing service
 - Recycling drop-off points
 - Community cash vouchers

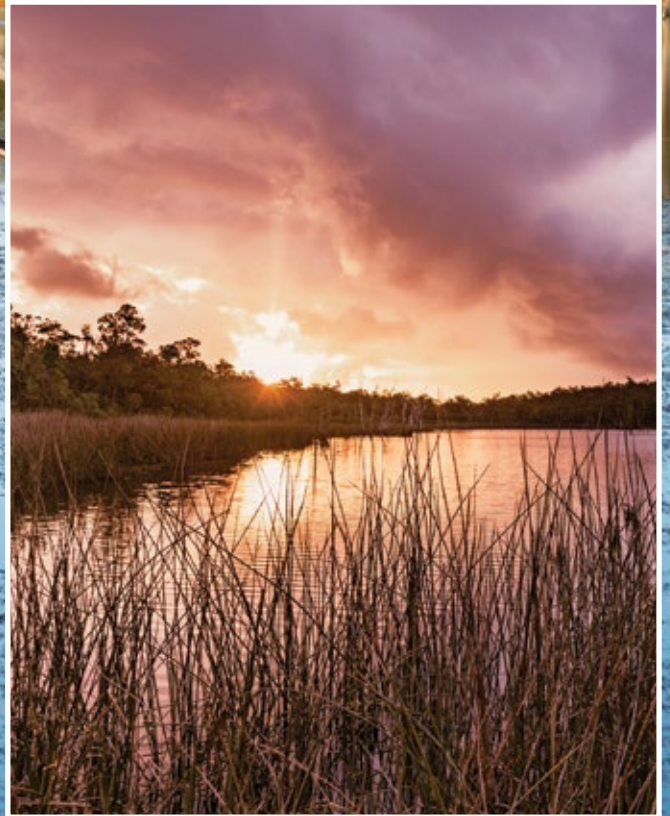
Institutions

- Bridgetown-Greenbushes Shire Council
- Greenbushes Community Resource Centre
- Greenbushes Primary School
- Grow Greenbushes
- Greenbushes Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
- Stinton Gardens independent living units
- Services Australia Access Point
- Bridgetown-Greenbushes Visitor Centre
- TransWA
- Silverchain
- Act Belong Commit
- Blackwood Biosecurity
- Regional Development Australia South West
- Justice of the Peace visits
- Free library
- Mobile Foodbank visits

Culture, Stories & Sources of Pride

- Historic Connections & Stories: Sister Kate's Home for Children connection, Polly Farmer connection, story of the train accident involving Prince of Wales in 1920, Ada the Friendly Ghost of Greenbushes, Greenbushes Pool history and stories
- Mining & Industrial Heritage: WA's oldest continuously mined operation – first mining lease issued in WA, mining heritage, farming heritage, timber milling heritage, rail heritage, mine tours
- Greenbushes Eco-Cultural Discovery Centre – interactive exhibits and games, theatrette
- Trails & Walks: Little Schools Trail, Heritage Walk including Cosy Corner Store and story of Mrs. Angus Confectionary Store, Greenbushes Heritage Trail – 77 sites, history trail interpretation signs, Greenbushes Heritage Amble Game
- Heritage Park – memorabilia, interpretation
- Greenbushes Primary School photographic collection
- Battye Library Greenbushes photographic collection
- Arts: CWA mosaic displays, painted quotation seats, Art Trail – mural and art installations
- Environment: Shwenke's Dam - bird watching and bird viewing area, Priority Bittern and Waterbird Biodiversity Enhancement Project
- Events: ANZAC Day activities (Dawn Service and Gunfire Breakfast), Pink Fun Run, bicycle marathon, Christmas Party, Australia Day Breakfast & Acoustic Music Campovers
- Noongar culture and history - meeting point for three Indigenous groups





Our Strategies & Actions

Theme One

Strengthen Community Connection

ACTIONS

1

1. Support **Grow Greenbushes** which brings together the community in Greenbushes on a monthly basis to discuss, instigate and advocate for community enhancement initiatives.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

2. Work with the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes to create a **physical service centre presence** in Greenbushes (Community Resource Centre).

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

3. Develop a **Welcome to Greenbushes Task Team** who create and distribute a 'Welcome Kit', coordinate 'Welcome to Greenbushes' events and strengthen & unify Greenbushes' digital presence.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

4. Work with Bridgetown to create a **calendar of regular events that connect residents and build community relationships** e.g. Family Fun Day, Good Neighbour Day, street parties, Christmas event in mainstreet etc.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

5. Promote **volunteering and community engagement** through:
 - Continually inviting community members to voice ideas, suggestions and actively volunteer.
 - Regularly fostering volunteer opportunities.

Timeframe: Short - Immediate and Ongoing

6. Continue active participation in **Activate Bridgetown-Greenbushes** as a shire-wide collective mechanism to achieve better collaboration, networking and resource sharing between Bridgetown and Greenbushes community organisations.

Timeframe: Ongoing

LEAD GROUPS

Greenbushes Community Forum
GCRC
Grow Greenbushes
GECDG
GCG

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

GCWA
Lotterywest
TCSP
Activate Team
GVBFB
Volunteering WA
Local community groups

Local business community
DLGSC
DPIRD
CBHIF
BOI
RA

Our Strategies & Actions

Theme Two

Create Opportunities for Children & Young People

ACTIONS

1. Review and provide feedback to support SBG to implement the **'Youth Friendly Community Plan 2024-2028'** to improve the representation for Greenbushes young people.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

2. Encourage all local community groups to provide & explore the use of programs that encourage youth opportunities like the **'RuMAD? - Are You Making a Difference' program**. This is as a tool for encouraging students to design and implement community projects around what they care about.

Timeframe: Immediate

3. Link and support local young people to **shire, regional, state and national leadership development experiences and scholarship opportunities**.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

LEAD GROUPS

GCRC
SBG

GPS
BYA

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

TCSP
DoC
YACWA
YSRC
SWDC

BHS
DLGSC
Local community groups
Local business community



Our Strategies & Actions

Theme Three

Improve Our Public Space Facilities & Enhance Our Main Street Appeal

ACTIONS



1. Support a **Mainstreet Beautification Project** to:
 - a) Work with the SBG, Talison and the community to beautify the mainstreet.
 - b) Undertake an audit of existing street presentation.
 - c) Encourage Greenbushes residents and mainstreet businesses to be involved in project.
 - d) Create prioritised beautification options.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

2. Encourage the community to be involved in the KAB **'Tidy Towns Sustainable Initiative Awards'** program, for example litter pickups.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

3. Support the Greenbushes Eco-Cultural Discovery Centre to design, promote and raise funding to build **local history murals** in Greenbushes to highlight the town's connection.

Timeframe: Medium to Long Term

4. Advocate to SBG, Main Roads Western Australia and Talison Lithium to collectively enhance the safety, appeal and signage of the **town's two highway entrances.**

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

5. Advocate to the SBG and DBCA for the improvement of and funding support for:

- Improved **Greenbushes Pool site and facilities.**
- Greening of the **sportsground and upgrades.**
- Extension of the **pump track or further bush bike trails.**
- Improvements to **Thomson Park play equipment.**
- Hold discussions to implement & maintain **a herb garden at Greenbushes Pool and the Sportsground Free Camping Areas.**

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

6. Continue to support the physical and program expansion of the **Greenbushes Community Shed and Greenbushes Community Garden** to become key community meeting spaces.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

7. Work with the SBG to promote the **dog park** at the Cricket Pavillon area (Greenbushes Sportsgrounds) for the community and as a tourism asset.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

LEAD GROUPS

Grow Greenbushes
GCRC
SBG
GMS
GCG
DBCA

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

TCSP
Lotterywest
BBRF
Shamrock Sporting Club raffles

CBHIF
SWDC
DLGSC

RDASW
FRRR
KAB

Our Strategies & Actions

Theme Four

Preserve Our Local Heritage

ACTIONS

1. Support **Greenbushes Eco-Cultural Discovery Centre** to expand their activities, particularly through recruitment of more volunteers, improved promotions, and greater attraction of regional school groups, including updating heritage signs and trail signs.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

2. Support the Greenbushes Eco-Cultural Discovery Centre to complete their restoration of the **old North Greenbushes Railway Station** and its opening of an interactive tourism attraction.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

LEAD GROUPS

**GECD
Railway Station Group**

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

**SBG
TCSP
Greenbushes Town
Team
BBRF**

**GCRC
SWDC
SAP
Lotterywest
CBHIF**

**FRRR
DLGSC
RED Grants**



Our Strategies & Actions

Theme Five

Expand Our Tourism & Business Options

ACTIONS



1. Support BCCI and SFVTA to develop a **Bridgetown-Greenbushes Tourism Strategy** which could include the following actions:
 - a) Auditing current tourism attractions, facilities, events, trails and initiatives.
 - b) Reviewing regional tourism links, activities and trails.
 - c) Identifying opportunities to enhance existing products and offerings.
 - d) Prioritising opportunities to create new tourism products, especially related to heritage and cultural tourism, and build upon strong regional arts assets.
 - e) Recommending initiatives to enhance marketing, branding, customer service, community storytelling and operator networking.
 - f) Identify and advocate for the implementation of improvements to the two free camping areas and initiatives to connect campers to local business services.
 - g) Prepare and promote tour itineraries to attract more car, caravan and cycling club visits.

Timeframe: Immediate to Medium Term

2. Support the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes to complete mainstreet building restoration and identify an appropriate business operator to open a **bakery-café**.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

3. Support the GCG to promote and run **Monthly Markets** in Greenbushes.

Timeframe: Short Term

4. **Attract a diverse range of businesses to town.**

Timeframe: Long Term

LEAD GROUPS

SBG
BDVC
GECDC
GCG
BCCI

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Greenbushes business community
BGTA
SFVTA
TCSP
BCCI
GCRC
RED Grants
Activate Team

SWDC
TWA
ASW
SAP
RDASW
Lotterywest
BOI
RAC

Abbreviations

ASW	Australia's South West Tourism Association	GCWA	Greenbushes Country Women's Association
BBRF	Building Better Regions Fund of the Australian Government	GECD	Greenbushes Eco-Cultural Discovery Centre
BCCI	Blackwood Chamber of Commerce and Industry	GMS	Greenbushes Men's Shed
BGTA	Bridgetown-Greenbushes Tourism Association	GPS	Greenbushes Primary School
BOI	Bank of I.D.E.A.S.	GVBFB	Greenbushes Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
BYA	Blackwood Youth Action	KAB	Keep Australia Beautiful WA
CBHIF	Co-operative Bulk Handling Investment Fund	RA	Rural Aid
CRC	Community Resource Centre	RAC	Royal Automobile Club
DBCA	WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	RDASW	Regional Development Australia South West
DLGSC	WA Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries	RED	Regional Economic Development Grants of SWDC
DoC	Department of Communities	RSL	Returned Services League
DPIRD	WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development	SAP	Streets Alive Program of Town Teams Movement
FRRR	Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal	SBG	Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes
GCG	Greenbushes Community Garden	SFVTA	Southern Forests & Valleys Tourism Association
GCRC	Greenbushes Community Resource Centre	SWDC	South West Development Commission
		TCSP	Talison Community Support Program
		TWA	Tourism Western Australia
		YACWA	Youth Affairs Council of WA

Acknowledgements

The formulation of this 'Community Development Action Plan' was initiated and coordinated by the Greenbushes Community Resource Centre and the Activate Greenbushes Team initiative, namely Nicole Ward (Greenbushes CRC), Carolyn Daws (Greenbushes CRC), Cheryl Crossan (Greenbushes CRC & Community Garden), Trish McCourt (Blackwood Biosecurity), Jenni Oliver (Bridgetown Hub), Jane Wittenoom (Bridgetown CRC), Kaye McLennan (Bridgetown CRC), Tracy Lansdell (Shire President – Bridgetown-Greenbushes) and Irma Lachmund (Greenbushes Community Garden & GROW Greenbushes). It was made possible by Rural Aid as part of their commitment to supporting Australia's small rural towns. The formulation of the Plan was undertaken by Peter Kenyon from the Bank of I.D.E.A.S. Special thanks to so many passionate community members, including students at the Greenbushes Primary School, who gave so generously of their time, wisdom and experiences.

A special acknowledgement and thank-you to Greenbushes resident Natacha Issler for taking the time to take and supply the amazing photos which showcase the beauty and uniqueness of Greenbushes.

Greenbushes proudly sits at the meeting point for three Indigenous groups. We respectfully acknowledge the Kaneang, Pibelman and Wadandi Peoples as the traditional Custodians of these lands. We pay respects to elders past, present and emerging, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and the community.





Greenbushes

WESTERN AUSTRALIA