



Shire of
Halls Creek

HALLS CREEK PLACE MAKING PLAN

16 MARCH 2026

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Shire of Halls Creek acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which the Shire operates and delivers services. The Shire recognises the deep and ongoing connection of Aboriginal peoples to Country, culture, community, and law, and acknowledges that these lands have never been ceded.

The Shire pays its respects to Elders past and present, and extends that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within the community. The Shire is committed to working respectfully and collaboratively with Traditional Owners to support reconciliation, cultural understanding, and sustainable outcomes for current and future generations.

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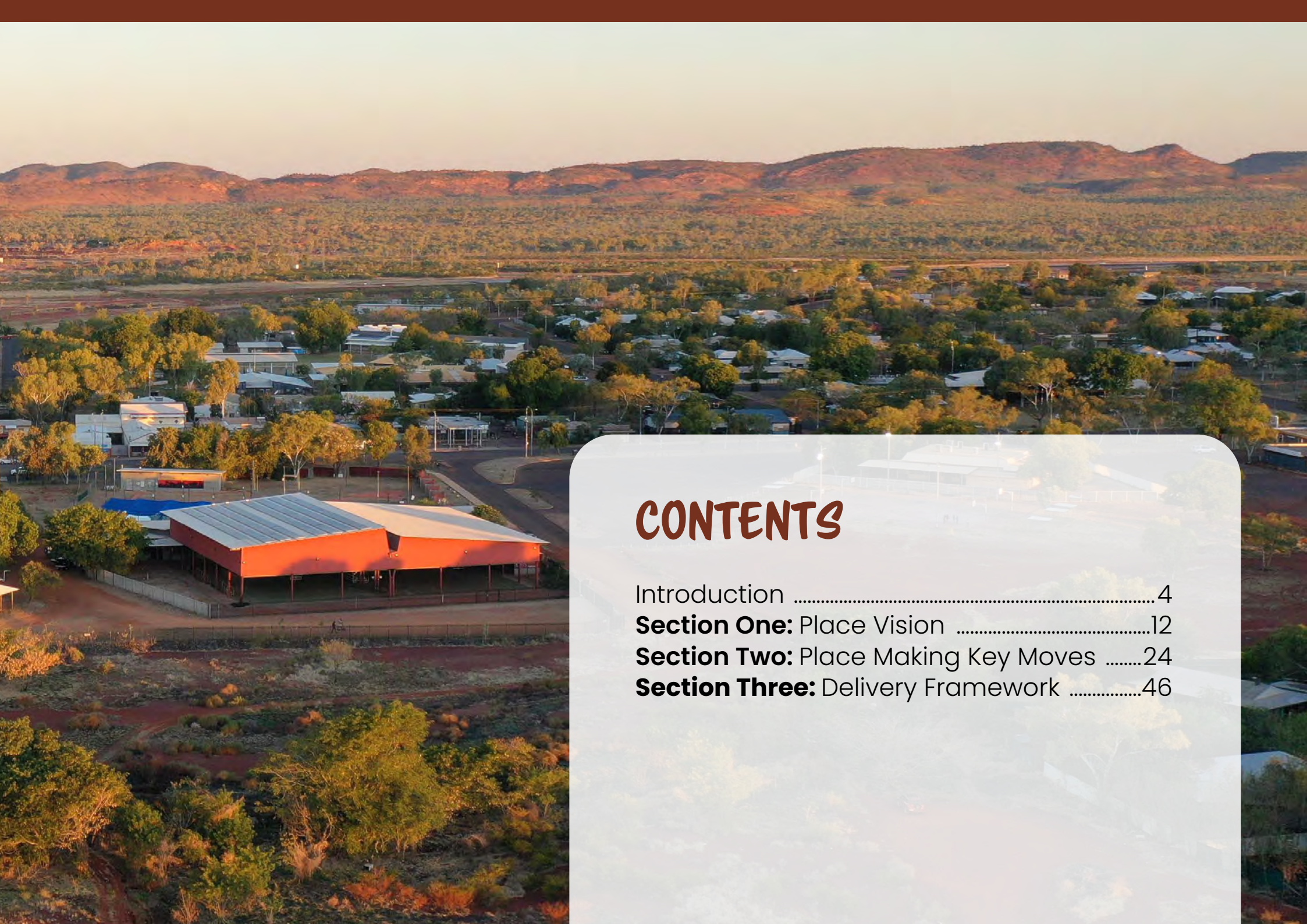
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INTRODUCTION

Halls Creek is home to some of Australia's most breathtaking landscapes, and the world's oldest continuing living culture. Yet despite this richness, for many living in Halls Creek today, the reality is marked by significant challenges.

The town of Halls Creek is situated on the Great Northern Highway in the East Kimberley, around 2,850 kilometres from Perth, 358 kilometres east of Kununurra, and 685 kilometres west of Broome. It's the largest town in the Shire of Halls Creek and a key service hub for nearby cattle stations, mining operations, and Aboriginal communities.

Halls Creek has a population of 1,605 that is predominantly First Nations peoples, particularly from the Jaru and Kija language groups. The Shire also supports remote communities including Balgo, Warmun, Billiluna (Mindibungu), Ringer Soak, Yiyili, and Mulan (Paruku). As the district's service centre, Halls Creek provides essential services like healthcare, education, and local government. However, it faces serious challenges in infrastructure, employment, and community wellbeing.

Financially, the Shire of Halls Creek is constrained. With only 21 ratepayers in the district, just 29% of revenue comes from rates and fees, far below the 70% typical in other local government areas. The Shire relies heavily on grants to fund services. Many public spaces, community facilities, and private properties are in poor condition and infrastructure is deteriorating.

Between 2018 and 2024, the Shire recorded the lowest infrastructure investment of Kimberley local governments – just \$26.8 million in total, or \$6,379 per capita. This accounted for only 5% of the Shire's total infrastructure spend, despite the district representing 11% of the Kimberley's population.

A severe housing shortage has led to overcrowding, poor health outcomes, and safety concerns. These issues make it difficult to attract and retain staff, and many essential services are either missing or operated remotely.

Aboriginal communities in very remote areas such as Halls Creek are the most digitally excluded of all Australians. The digital divide is at its widest between these people and other Australians (source Australian Digital Inclusion Index 2024). In 2021, digital literacy became a Closing the Gap target of all the Kimberley towns. The Shire has the greatest barrier to digital literacy because it lacks a free internet service (other than a Wi-Fi hotspot outside the Shire office) and free access to computers, which are offered elsewhere by public libraries; as well as acceptable digital literacy learning opportunities.

VISIONING FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Over the past few months, the Shire has been having many conversations with their community members about what matters most for the future.

These ideas and feedback have helped to inform a Community Vision, along with key pillars and priorities that reflect what people value. These ideas have shaped the Shire's Strategic Community Plan 2026 – 2036.

A big part of bringing the vision to life will be this Place Making Plan. The objective is to help to make public spaces and facilities better, in line with what the community wants. It will also support the Shire and local groups in seeking funding to turn these ideas into reality.

The Plan provides a strong, evidence-based framework for the Shire and local organisations to advocate for funding and investment – ensuring that future growth is shaped by the needs and aspirations of the community.

KEY FACTS

The population of Halls Creek is younger, predominantly First Nations peoples, and experiences higher levels of disadvantage and unemployment than the national average.



POPULATION

2024 ERP Population, ABS

1,605 Town of Halls Creek
4,213 Shire of Halls Creek
39,934 Kimberley Wide

Indigenous Population, 2021 Census

2,774 Shire of Halls Creek
77% Shire of Halls Creek
41% Kimberley Wide

Median Age, 2021 Census

29 Shire of Halls Creek
33 Kimberley Wide

HIGH POVERTY

Individuals

53% Town
30% Kimberley Wide

Families

43% Town
33% Kimberley Wide

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Unemployment

24.2% Shire of Halls Creek

Income Support

38% WA Average 6.1%

TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE (2018-2024)

Lowest Regional Investment

\$27m
 Representing 5% Kimberley Wide

Shire of Halls Creek Per Capita Spend

\$6.4m
 Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley \$13.5m
 Shire of Derby/West Kimberley \$19m

INCOME

Median Household Weekly Income

\$1,261 Shire of Halls Creek
\$1,680 Kimberley Wide
\$1,834 Western Australia

Median Individual Annual Income

\$21,280 Shire of Halls Creek
\$55,637 Kimberley Wide
\$59,426 Western Australia

National Socio-Economic Decile

1st(bottom)

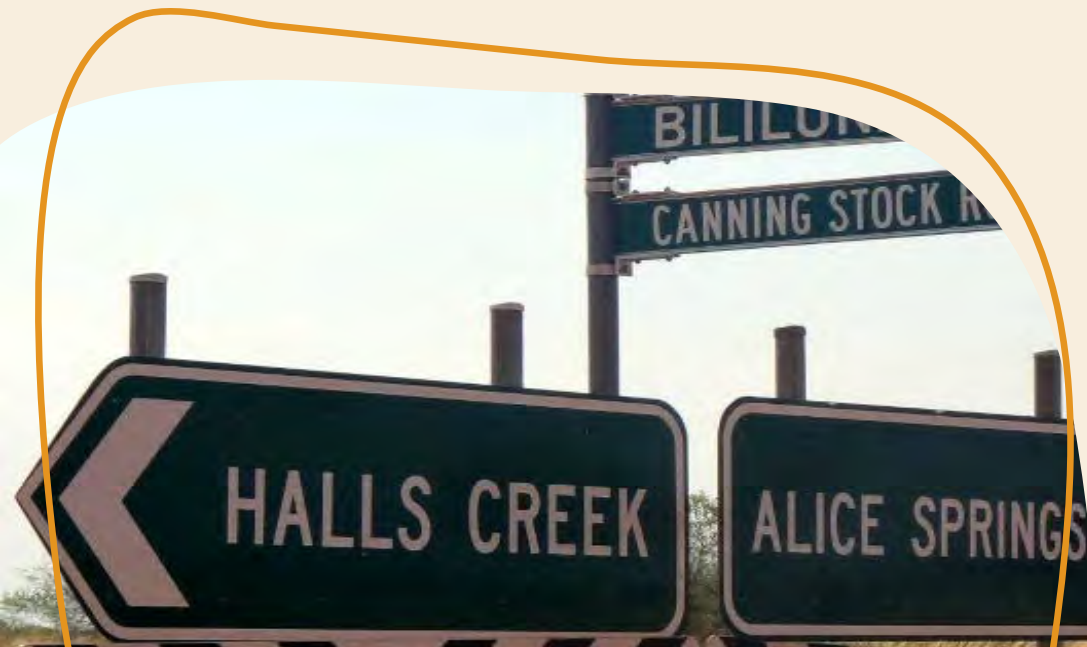
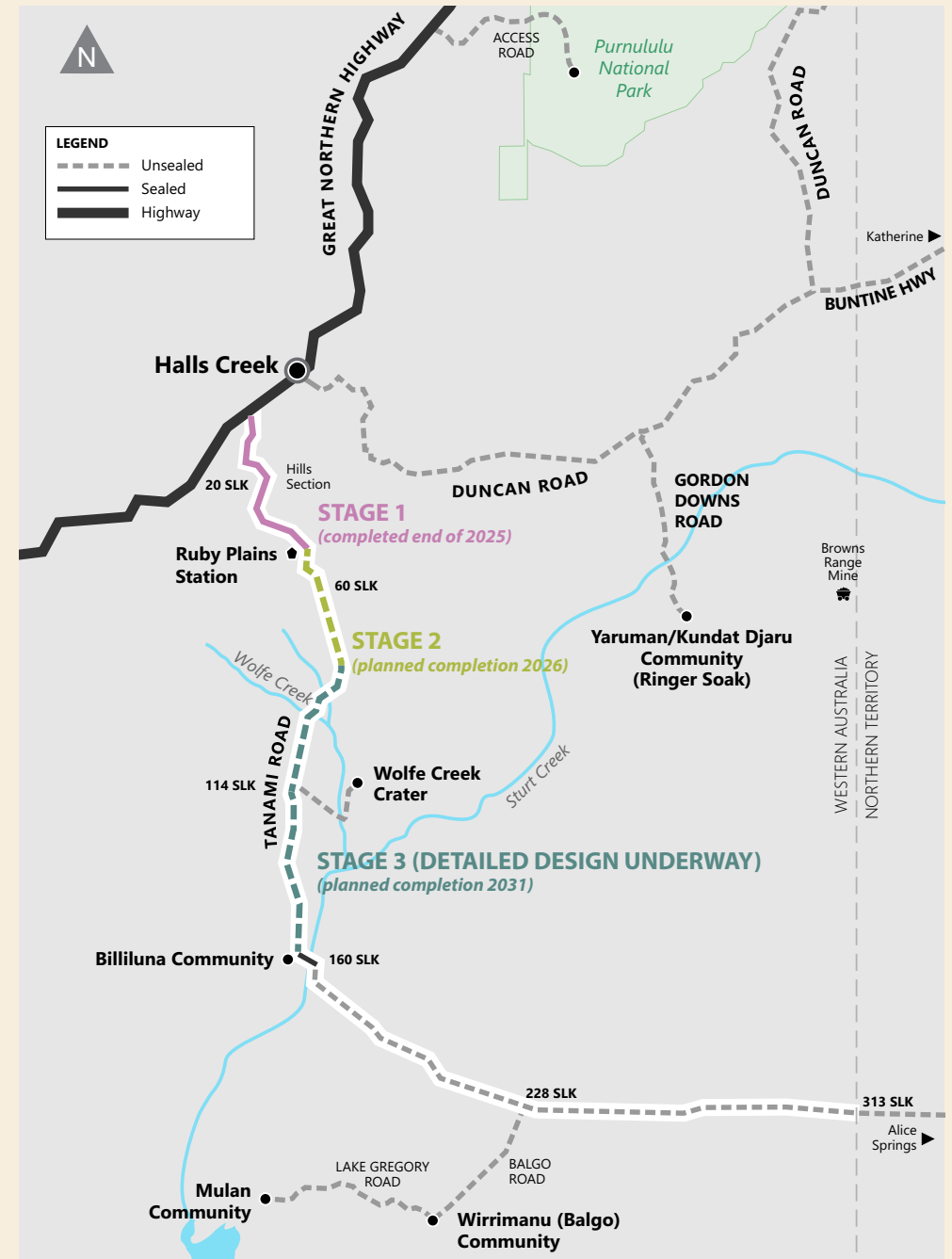
Index of relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD)

SEALING THE TANAMI ROAD

The sealing of the Tanami Road is set to deliver transformative economic and social benefits for residents of the Shire, particularly through industry expansion in mining, tourism, and agriculture.

Currently unsealed and extending 313 kilometres southeast from Halls Creek through the East Kimberley, the Tanami Road is being upgraded in stages. The first 40 kilometres from Great Northern Highway has already been sealed, with the next section to Ruby Plains Station expected to be completed by the end of 2026. Full sealing to the Northern Territory border is anticipated by 2031.

Once complete, the sealed road will dramatically improve access to Halls Creek and nearby Aboriginal communities including Billiluna, Balgo, and Mulan. It will also make it easier for people to visit natural landmarks like Wolfe Creek Crater and Lake Gregory.



STRATEGIC BENEFITS



REDUCED TRAVEL DISTANCE

Sealing the Tanami will cut travel to the Kimberley by over

1,000 kilometres

from Adelaide and Melbourne

and nearly

700 kilometres

from Sydney

making the Kimberley significantly more accessible to visitors from Australia's southeast.



LOWER FREIGHT COSTS

Direct east-west access will allow goods and services to be delivered from the east coast, bypassing longer, costlier routes through Perth, the Pilbara, and Broome.

An Economic Impact Assessment commissioned by the Shire confirms that sealing the Tanami Road **will unlock substantial opportunities across key sectors.**



MINING

Creation of up to **240 jobs**

Full-time equivalent (FTE)

Local business growth in **construction, operations and supply chain services**

(fuel, food, accommodation, transport, mechanical services).



TOURISM

Up to **100 jobs**

Full-time equivalent (FTE)

Expanded access to **new markets and attractions**

Development of **tourism infrastructure, cultural experiences, Aboriginal ranger programs and major events.**



AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY

Improved **market access and infrastructure investment**

Support for **biosecurity, animal welfare, and quarantine requirements.**

New **pastoral stations and local business opportunities.**



ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Between March and August 2025, shire officers and consultants have spent time yarning with people across the town during a series of visits, to listen to and understand what matters most to them about the future.

The goal of these discussions was to ultimately understand how to improve public spaces and facilities in ways that truly reflect what the community wants.

The ideas were also tested via a digital survey. The feedback heard has shaped the Place Vision which captures what the community values, and guides the direction of the ideas reflected in this Place Making Plan.

The high level ideas of 'What We Heard' are summarised on the following page.

PHASE 1: SCOPING



PHASE 2: LISTENING



PHASE 3: YARNING



PHASE 4: REFLECTION





**Upgrade
Parks**



**More
Housing**



**Celebrate
Culture**



**Revitalise
and
Beautify
Town Centre**



**Upgrade Recreation
Facilities (Oval)**



Expand Retail
(Groceries, Hardware, Bakery)



**Safe
Streets**



**Grow the
Economy, Jobs
and Employment**



**More Youth
Activities**



**Youth
Facilities**



**Shade
Shelter**



**More Seating
Picnic Tables**



**Footpaths
Lighting**



**Respect
for Elders**



**CCTV
Surveillance**



**Maintenance
Presentation**



**Drinking
Fountains**



**Support
Educational
Programs**

WHAT WE HEARD

PLACE MAKING PLAN

The Place Making Plan is structured into three sections to guide Halls Creek's transformation in a practical and achievable way.

Each section builds on the last, starting with

1. A shared Place Vision;
2. Place Making Key Moves to bring the vision to life;
3. A Delivery Framework which provides a clear roadmap to ensure projects are accountable, well managed, sustainable, and deliver real community benefits.

SECTION ONE PLACE VISION

The Place Vision reflects the values, culture, and aspirations of the Halls Creek community. It imagines a future town that celebrates local culture and lifestyle, supports a stronger economy to improve health and wellbeing, and offers beautiful public spaces that people are proud of.

SECTION TWO PLACE MAKING KEY MOVES

This section provides a detailed overview of the Key Moves to bring the Place Vision to life.

These have been identified directly in response to community aspirations and feedback, and are presented in order of priority, based on the survey data findings.

SECTION THREE DELIVERY FRAMEWORK

The Delivery Framework sets out a staged and realistic approach that supports both short-term wins and long-term transformation, with a focus on three critical success factors:

- Better Use of Existing Facilities
- Strengthening Service Delivery
- Building Strong Partnerships

It recognises the need to better manage and activate existing assets before seeking major new investment. The Framework steps out a Structured Design Process and Delivery Program to ensure that future investment which stems from these concept ideas, leaves a lasting and positive legacy for the town.



CURRENT



Stark Main Street



Adhoc Furniture



Poorly Maintained Properties



Installations Past their Prime



National Highway Traffic



Uninspiring Frontages

VISIONING THE FUTURE



Youth Facilities



Trees and Shade



Wayfinding and Signage



Engaging Streetscapes



Upgrade Footpaths and Lighting



Celebrate Culture

SECTION TWO

PLACE VISION

The Place Making Plan sets out a clear vision shaped by local voices.

The Place Vision reflects the values, culture, and aspirations of the Halls Creek community. It imagines a future town that celebrates local culture and lifestyle, supports a stronger economy to improve health and wellbeing, and offers beautiful public spaces that people are proud of.

Guided by the Strategic Community Plan vision 'Our Home. Our Future.', the Place Vision is built upon four guiding pillars:

1. United;
2. Prosperous and Equitable;
3. Beautiful and Respected;
4. Safe and Healthy.

The Place Vision explains how these pillars will come to life in Halls Creek, based on what the community told us they value and aspire to. It sets the foundation for a strong, thriving town, while the game-changing strategies highlight the priorities that will drive real, lasting change.

This Place Vision is an invitation to dream big and work together. By partnering as a community, the people of Halls Creek can turn this vision into reality and create opportunities, wellbeing, and pride that will last for generations.





PLACE VISION

Halls Creek is a town with a bright future and a shared purpose – to be a place where everyone is welcomed, valued and proud to belong.

As agents for change, let's work together to rebuild a cohesive and inclusive town that uplifts local voices and honours the rich cultures of the Jaru and Kija peoples.

OUR HOME . OUR FUTURE

UNITED

Let's **consolidate** our most important **cultural and recreational assets** in the **heart of town** to make it a natural gathering place for shared experiences.

PROSPEROUS AND EQUITABLE

Attract investment to reshape a **resilient** town full of **opportunity**.

BEAUTIFUL AND RESPECTED

Let's strengthen **caring for country** to reignite the spirit and **beauty** of our local landscapes and culture, and rebuild **lively and energetic spaces** that make us proud.

SAFE AND HEALTHY

Create places that reinforce **healthy lifestyles** and **compassion** for people so that everyone feels welcome and looked after.



UNITED

Let's **consolidate** our most important **cultural and recreational assets** in the **heart of town** to make it a natural gathering place for shared experiences.



1 Build a new Splash Park

adjacent to the pool, with an adjoining public toilet facility.



2 Build a Skate Park

in the heart of town. Allocate dedicated resources for education and mentoring programs to encourage respect and upkeep.



3 Expand and upgrade the Recreation Centre

to include club facilities, fit-for-purpose change rooms and emergency evacuation facilities.



4 Establish a purpose built Cultural Centre

with cultural learning and exhibition spaces, and an outdoor amphitheatre.



5 Establish a Library (Knowledge Centre)

Including access to computers to improve digital literacy, and a place to accommodate a 'living' digital bibliography, for cultural learning.



Strengthen marketing and communications

to reinforce good news stories.



Facilitate more events

to energise and bring people together, and restore pride.



Convene a Place Making Committee

to guide and inform implementation of the Place Making Plan.



Create a cohesive place brand for Halls Creek

with a positive and uplifting undertone, and consistent colours and themes.



Legend

- Road
- - - Future Road
- Recreation Centre
- Swimming Pool
- Retail/Commercial/Mixed-Use

Potential Future Uses

- Great Northern Highway Upgrade
- Vehicle Access
- Pedestrian Path
- Green Pedestrian Link
- Removed Facilities
- Parking
- Recreation Centre Expansion
- Recreation Facilities
- Cultural Centre - Office Use
- Cultural Centre - Tourism
- Cultural Centre - Civic Use
- Residential
- Outdoor Gathering Spaces

Concept ideas subject to Illustrative Masterplanning and Detailed Design.



PROSPEROUS AND EQUITABLE

Attract investment to reshape a **resilient** town full of **opportunity**.



1 Establish Halls Creek Business Park

to unlock new opportunities for logistics, warehousing and mechanical services, and free up land for housing.



2 Invest in short term accommodation and camping areas

to provide options for travellers close to town.



3 Upgrade signage and wayfinding

that shares true history and reflects a cohesive town brand.



4 Unlock lazy lands

for housing, mixed-use and commercial.



5 Revitalise streetscapes

to stimulate investment and support retail and commercial operators.



6 Advocate and support tourism

marketing campaigns and product development.



7 Explore housing opportunities

in the long term, including Innovative Housing Models central to town.



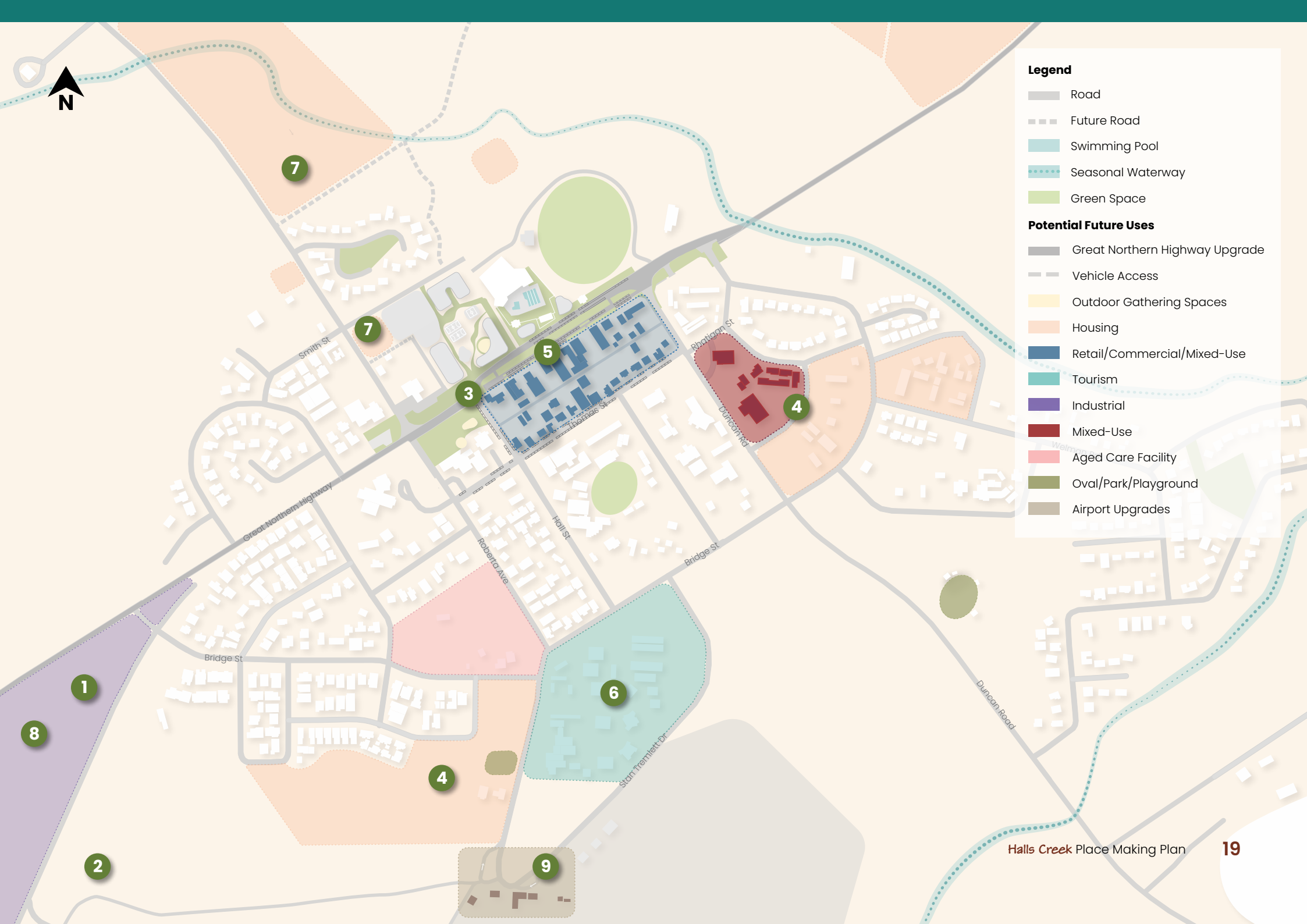
8 Investigate feasibility of a waste water treatment plant

to provide capacity to grow the town and sustain a healthy community.



9 Progress an Airport Masterplan

and advocate for funding to upgrade facilities.



Legend

- Road
- Future Road
- Swimming Pool
- Seasonal Waterway
- Green Space

Potential Future Uses

- Great Northern Highway Upgrade
- Vehicle Access
- Outdoor Gathering Spaces
- Housing
- Retail/Commercial/Mixed-Use
- Tourism
- Industrial
- Mixed-Use
- Aged Care Facility
- Oval/Park/Playground
- Airport Upgrades

BEAUTIFUL AND RESPECTED

Let's strengthen **caring for country** to reignite the spirit and **beauty** of our local landscapes and culture, and rebuild **lively** and **energetic spaces** that make us proud.



Upgrade Pioneer Park

to reflect its status as the town's principal park.



Implement a Tree Planting Strategy

with iconic Kimberley natives and feature trees, flowering shrubs and bush foods and progress water supply upgrades to service additional planting.



Street furniture upgrades

progress open space enhancements, including seating, shade shelters, picnic tables, and water fountains.



Reinstate the Town Walk and share 'Hidden History'

Capture 'living history' and create enduring products like self guided tours, memorials, storytelling and cultural history walking trails.



Upgrade Welman Road and Yardgee Parks

Progress local park upgrades including improved maintenance, water fountains, seating, firepits/BBQ's and play/sport facilities.



Upgrades plans for town based communities

at Nicholson Block, Redhill (Lundja) and Mardiwah Loop including community gardens, shade, improved maintenance, water fountains, seating, firepits/BBQ's and play facilities.



Refresh culture and art around town

including murals, multilingual signage (Jaru, Gija and English) and installations.



Create welcoming spaces and alfresco areas

by extending the median strip and landscaping along Great Northern Highway and Pioneer Park.



Invest in high quality, beautiful outdoor spaces

that are culturally appropriate, to allow space for sorry time business.



Elevate the standard of presentation

and maintenance around town.



Legend

- Road
- Future Road
- Landscaping

Potential Future Uses

- Great Northern Highway Upgrade
- Vehicle Access
- Pedestrian Path
- Parking
- Outdoor Gathering Spaces
- Cafe/Alfresco Area

Based on the Halls Creek Streetscape Concept, subject to Detailed Design.

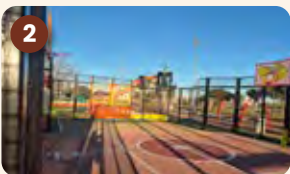
SAFE AND HEALTHY

Create places that reinforce **healthy lifestyles** and **compassion** for people so that everyone feels welcome and looked after.



1 Upgrade Oval

and collaborate with local clubs to re-establish a football competition in town.



2 Invest in youth

partner with relevant agencies to facilitate regular youth programming and invest in youth drop in spaces and a multi-sport court facility.



3 Footpath replacement and expansion and solar lighting

around town, particularly for the town based communities.



4 CCTV upgrades around town

Advocate for funding and partner with police to locate new cameras in key locations.



5 Advocate for the Great Northern Highway realignment

and intersection upgrades to slow traffic and improve safety.



6 Create a one-way slip street

adjacent to the highway to enhance pedestrian safety and amenity.



7 Install fitness park equipment

around the oval, and around town.



8 Advocate for the Duncan Road deviation

and a future heavy haulage deviation around town.



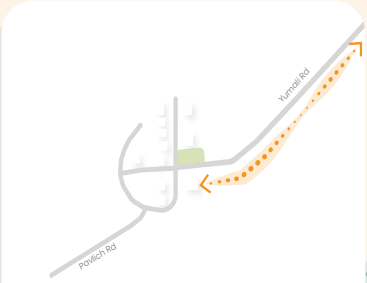
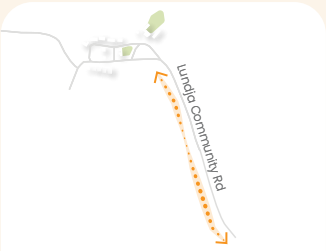
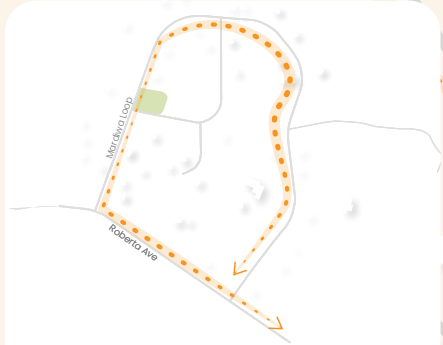
9 Potential future oval and playground

located south of town adjacent to Duncan Road.



10 Proposed new local park and meeting space

Featuring a lawned area, small playground and possible yarning circle, all safeguarded by a walled structure to deter unsafe vehicle movements.



Legend

- Road
- - - Future Road
- Retail/Commercial/Mixed-Use
- Great Northern Highway upgrade
- - - Vehicle access
- Pedestrian path
- CCTV (liaise with WA Police)
- ... Lighting and Footpath Upgrades
- Bus Stop

Based on the Halls Creek Streetscape Concept, subject to Detailed Design.

Redhill (Lundja) Community

Nicholson Block

PLACE MAKING KEY MOVES

The Place Making Plan is underpinned by ten key moves, to bring the Place Vision to life. The ideas support both short-term outcomes and a longer-term transformation.

Each key move is designed to improve public spaces and facilities in line with community priorities. Some ideas are aspirational, drawing on facilities the community currently lacks or successful examples from similar towns. These concepts go beyond design, focusing on making places more useful, welcoming, and better connected.

They will also help the Shire and local groups secure funding to bring these ideas to life.

Importantly, the strategies highlight the need to make better use of what's already in place and are grounded in robust planning, resilience, community wellbeing, economic benefit, and collaboration.





Reboot Recreation



Beautiful Landscaping



Inviting Streetscapes



Revitalise the Main Street



Renew Local Parks and Playgrounds



Safer Streets



Position for Prosperity



Cultural Gathering Hub



Place Rebrand



Upgrade Airport

INVITING STREETSCAPES

The Great Northern Highway and Thomas Street are key entry points into Halls Creek, but right now it feels harsh and unwelcoming. The streetscape outside the local supermarket is similarly bare, further detracting from the town's amenity.

Narrow footpaths are hampered by infrastructure constraints which limit the opportunity for trees, and the installation of shade structures or outdoor seating, reducing comfort and useability along the Main Street. Graffiti is prevalent, and many businesses and properties along the Main Street are poorly presented and not well maintained.

Open spaces alongside the Great Northern Highway are popular for people to linger, connect with country and socialise, yet there is limited furniture. Most of the street furniture that is available is outdated, poorly maintained and lacks cohesion. People are left with no option but to sit on hard rocks or the ground.

A Streetscape Design Concept together with an Indicative Materials Schedule and Plant Species Palette has been prepared, to support this Place Making Plan.

People friendly and welcoming streetscapes with high quality, functional, and durable street furniture that better serves cultural needs and everyday habits.

It is recommended that minimal streetscape works are progressed, pending approval of the Great Northern Highway realignment Concept Design. Further detailed design will guide a specific layout and structured placement of services, landscaping features, maintenance regimes and water sensitive urban design specifications.

Community infrastructure

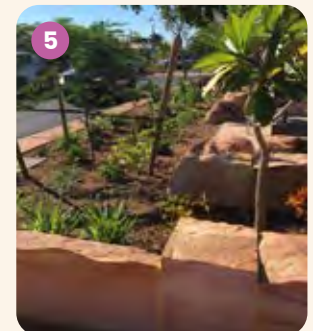
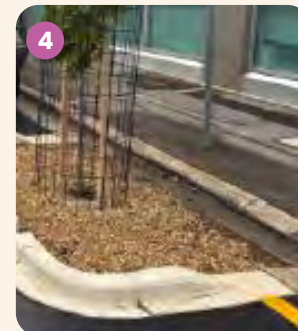
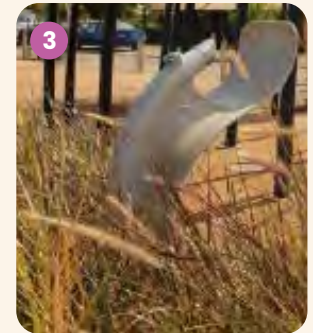
Enhance open spaces with structured placement of new seating, shade shelters, picnic tables, BBQs/ firepits and recycling bins. Invest in a standard range of off-the-shelf infrastructure that is hard wearing and easy to replace, but attractive and comfortable.

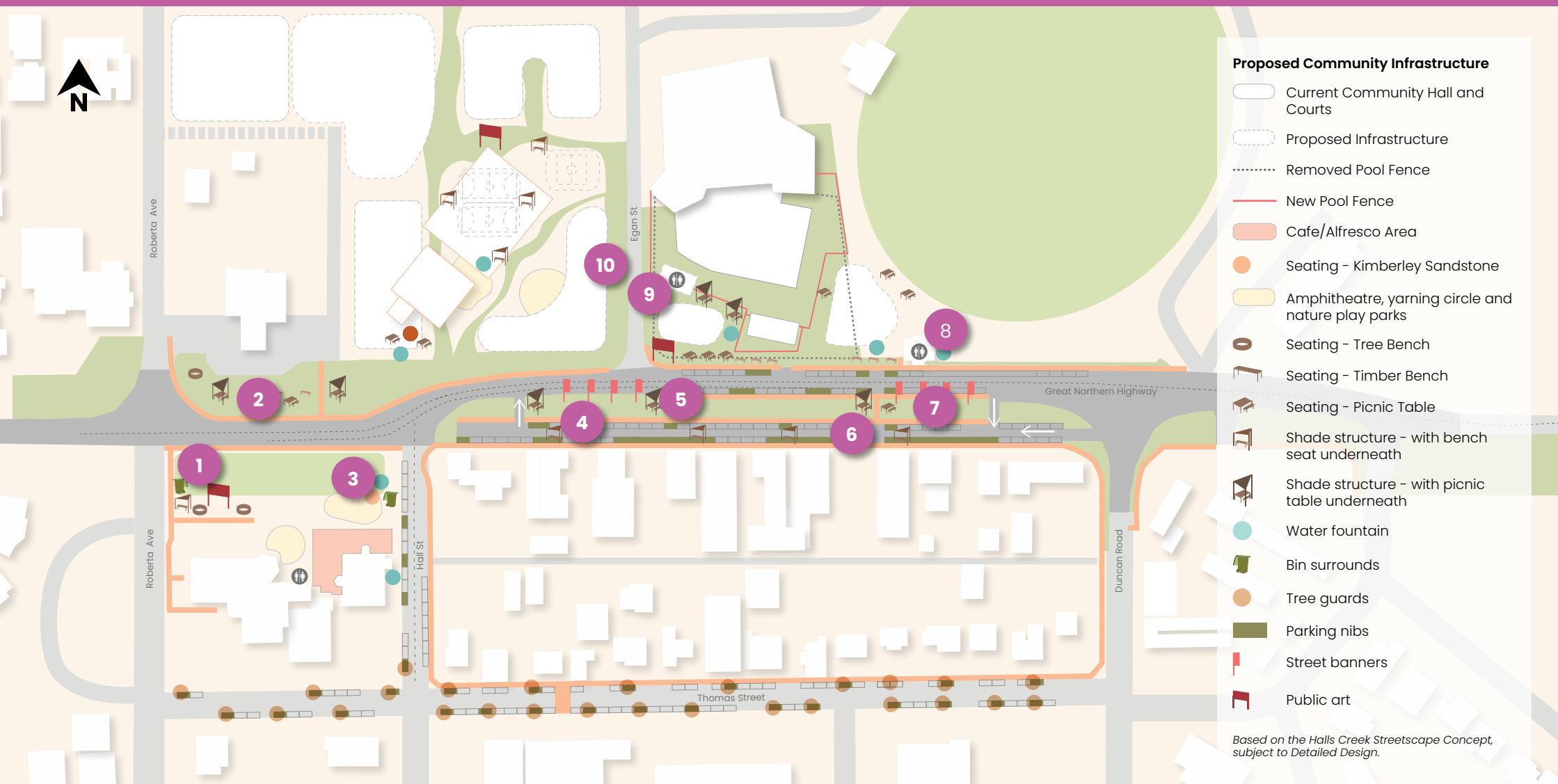
Materials and surfaces

Use materials that are robust, locally responsive, and practical for long-term use, including exposed aggregate concrete with pindan red tones, local feature stone, cyclone-rated shade structures, steel seating, accessible water points, and animal-proof bins.

Colours and textures

Use a colour and texture palette that reflects the Kimberley landscape with deep red earth as the primary tone, complemented by ochres and sandstone yellows, flowering purples and oranges, fruiting greens, and natural stone greys and browns.





1. Streetbanners and wayfinding that reflects cultural history, story telling and town brand.
2. Shade shelters with cyclone rated steel frames and earth tone fabric for gatherings and weather resilience.
3. Accessible stainless steel water fountains with ground level options for dogs.
4. Remove parking on the south side of Great Northern Highway to make space for shade structures and alfresco seating.
5. Steel seating in earth tones with family benches and comfortable individual seats.
6. Paving with robust concrete, exposed aggregate, incorporating local river stone and red ochre oxide to reflect the earth tones of Halls Creek.
7. More rubbish bins.
8. Upgrade and maintain toilet facilities.
9. New toilet facilities near the Splash Park and at the Court House.
10. Formalise a Bus Shelter.

BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPES

Trees are a highly valuable commodity in Halls Creek. The community wants more trees for shade and comfort, and established trees should be retained as a first priority – wherever feasible.

Situated in a desert environment, all infrastructure in Halls Creek is challenged by water scarcity, harsh climate and long-term maintenance. The extreme conditions and history of infrastructure damage, coupled with limited budgets for upkeep, demand smart approaches to design. Waterwise landscaping such as native drought-tolerant plants and permeable surfaces, will further support a reduction in maintenance costs.

Design landscapes to honour Jaru and Kija culture by creating safe, welcoming spaces for gathering, yarning and community life to reignite the spirit and beauty of the local landscapes.

Landscape Design

The Streetscape Concept proposes an extension of the median strip along Great Northern Highway, and upgrades to adjacent open spaces.

Planting Strategy

Planting combines iconic Kimberley natives with community-identified species to provide shade, seasonal colour, bush tucker, and cultural expression. Feature trees such as Boab, Ghost Gum, Kurrajong, Mango, and Poinciana define the character of streets and public spaces. These are supported by flowering shrubs, bush foods, grasses, and groundcovers that reflect Country and provide habitat for native wildlife.

Performance and Maintenance

The plant and materials selections are proven to withstand Kimberley conditions. Native species reduce water demand, and standard fittings enable simple replacement.

Local Business Procurement Panels and Contractor Training

Training and panels are recommended to support sustainable maintenance and employment opportunities.

Streetscape Maintenance Policy

This policy will set clearer standards around the presentation of properties in high profile areas.

Cultural Integration

Design the streetscape to host cultural artworks and storytelling, with layouts and materials that enable cultural expression while delivering everyday community amenity.

Future detailed design should explore opportunities to capture and reuse water efficiently, and ensure that all gathering areas are culturally sensitive, functional and inviting despite climatic constraints.



Golden Shower Tree



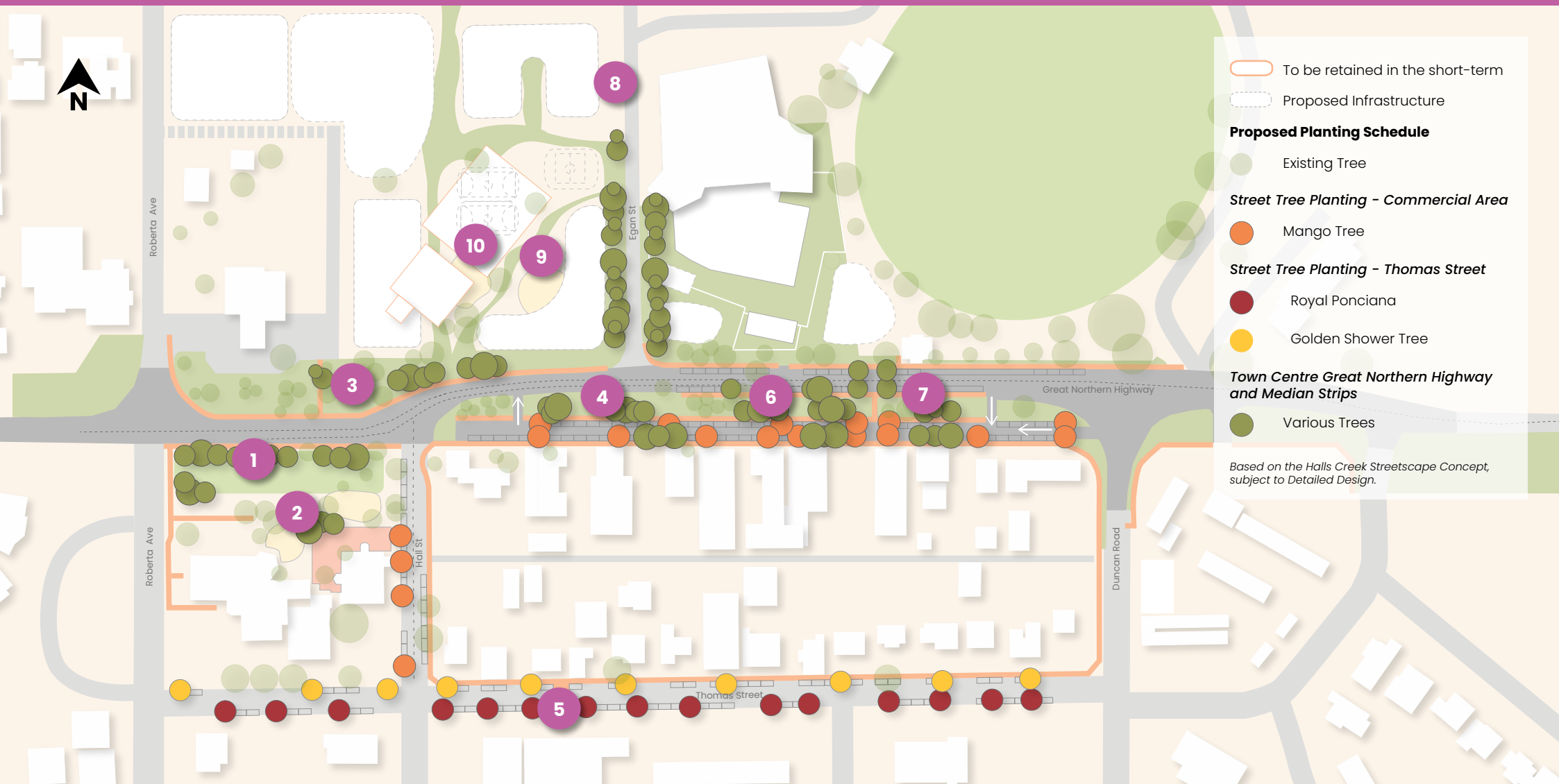
Royal Poinciana



Mango Tree



Firepits and Yarning Circles



1. Cultural artwork and story telling.
2. Feature local stone to define gathering areas, medians, and garden beds.
3. Native feature plants - Silver Paperbark and

4. Expand the median strip to slow traffic, extend landscaping and gathering spaces.
5. Install kerbing nibs along Thomas Street to make space for feature

6. Feature Mango Trees (Kensington Pride) as a low growing, easy to maintain street tree with good nutritional value.

7. Bush tucker species with nutritional value (Bush Apple and Pindan Walnut).
8. Permeable surfaces incorporated to manage wet season runoff.

9. Yarning circles, BBQ's and firepits for gathering and sorry business.
10. Textured finishes for slip resistance, safety, and cultural expression.

SAFER STREETS

Realign Great Northern Highway to slow traffic and mitigate the risks of increasing volumes of large road trains and caravans passing directly through town. Safer pedestrian connections around town and to outer-lying communities are also a high priority.

The Great Northern Highway is a National Highway Route, but it also functions as Halls Creek's Main Street. It features several safety hotspots particularly around the Duncan Road intersection, the service station and outside the local supermarket. With traffic volumes expected to increase following the Tanami Road upgrades, these issues are likely to escalate, highlighting the urgent need for targeted safety improvements.

Great Northern Highway Realignment

The Streetscape Concept advocates for a proposed realignment of the Great Northern Highway to create a safer environment for pedestrians, and more welcoming and comfortable environment for visitors and local business operators.

Footpaths, Lighting and CCTV

Pedestrian activity is high throughout the day and into the night, particularly along routes to and around Mardiwah Loop and Lundja (Red Hill) communities. Key priorities include:

- Prominent places close to busy roads, including Great Northern Highway, have no footpaths, poor lighting and no formalised pedestrian crossing points.
- Enhancing the town's CCTV network to support local police efforts in crime prevention, management and deterrence.

Duncan Road Deviation

The Old Halls Creek area holds deep cultural significance for the community, with a strong preference for roads in the district to remain unsealed. A proposed link road connecting freight movements to the Tanami Road prior to reaching town will help preserve these cultural values, while also reducing the number of road trains entering via Duncan Road, alleviating safety concerns at this intersection.

Heavy Haulage Deviation

A high volume of road trains currently pass through the heart of town at all hours, and this is expected to increase as economic activity grows following the Tanami Road upgrades. In the longer term, a Heavy Haulage Route Deviation remains a critical consideration to mitigate safety risks and reduce freight traffic through town.



**TRAFFIC:
VEHICLES PER DAY
(2018-2024)**

**Current
Daily Traffic**

76vpd

43 light vehicles
33 heavy vehicles

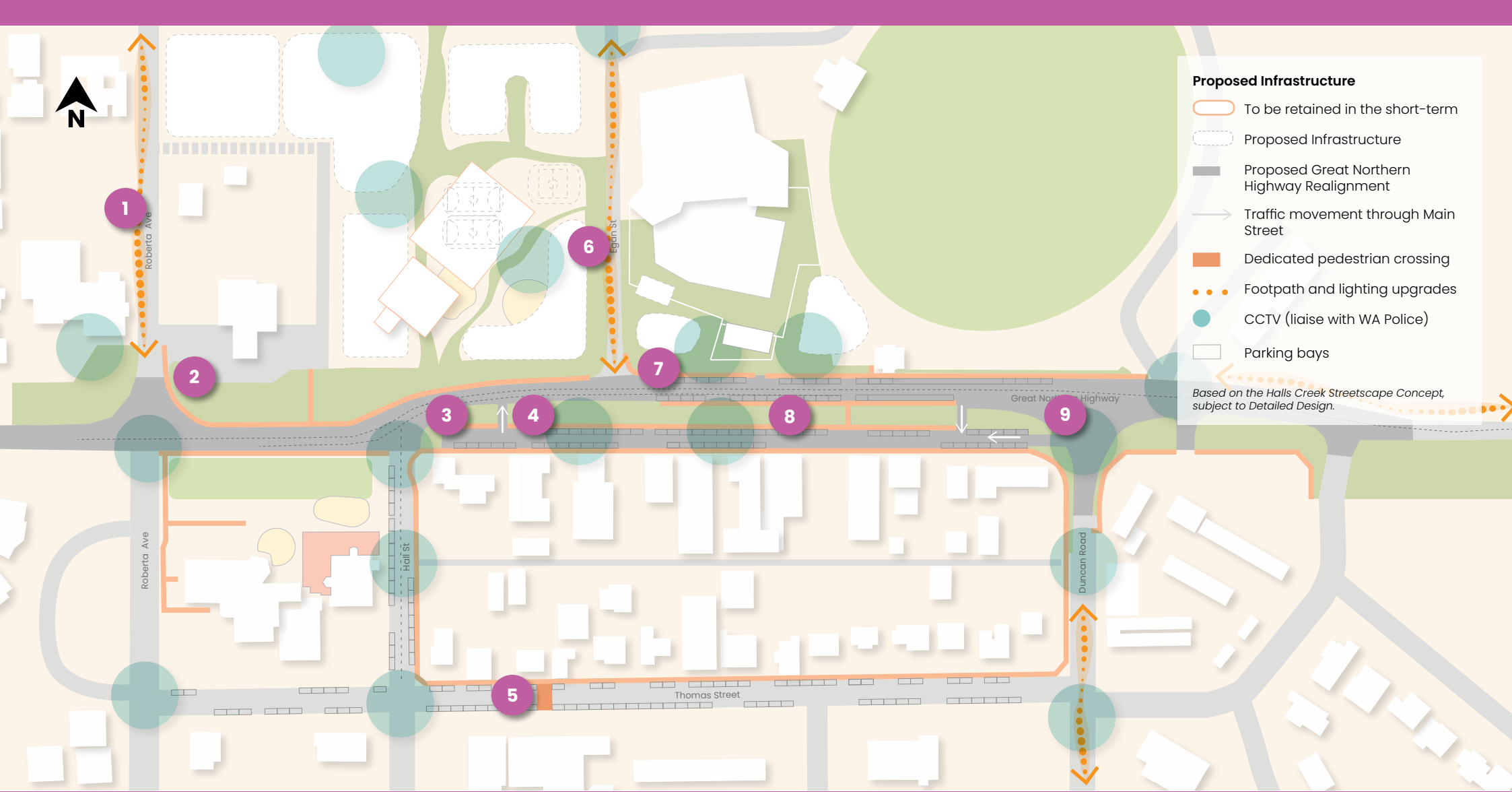
Future Post-Sealed Tanami

300vpd

Shire of Halls Creek Daily Traffic
Light and heavy

194%

Projected future daily
vehicle movements in
and out of Halls Creek



- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>1. Footpath, lighting and CCTV upgrades around town (communities).</p> <p>2. Modify vehicular access to Service Station to improve pedestrian safety (particularly children).</p> <p>3. Realign the highway to slow traffic and convert a one-way street outside the local supermarket.</p> | <p>4. Extend the median strip and landscaping as a further visual cue to slow traffic, and provide safer crossing points.</p> <p>5. Establish a formal pedestrian crossing near the school.</p> | <p>6. Indicative Future Bus Shelter (Poinciana Roadhouse).</p> <p>7. Retain parallel on street parking along Great Northern Highway and outside prominent retail areas.</p> <p>8. Retain valuable trees and landscaped open spaces as a high priority where possible.</p> | <p>9. Intersection modifications to Duncan Road.</p> |
|--|---|---|--|

RENEW PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS AND OPEN SPACES

Halls Creek has a comparatively high proportion of children, people with disabilities, and an ageing population. Yet the current condition of parks and playgrounds is poor.

Spending time outside is deeply valued, not just for recreation, but as a way to connect with country, and with friends and family.

Streetscape Design Concept

A structured and methodical approach will ensure parks, playgrounds and open spaces result in functional and culturally meaningful spaces that reflect the values and needs of locals and visitors to Halls Creek. The Streetscape Concept Design has identified the key structural elements to inform open space improvements within the town centre, including Pioneer Park.

Strengthen caring for country principles within all open spaces, including the town's parks and playgrounds, to reignite the spirit and rebuild lively and energetic spaces that make the whole community proud.

Pioneer Park

Upgrade Pioneer Park to reflect its status as the town's principal park. Further detailed design will progress the concept plan for and refine feature elements such as the amphitheatre, playground, deck area and potential war memorial relocation.

Local Park Upgrades

Upgrade local parks at Welman Road and Yardgee including seating, shade, firepits and/or BBQ's. Invest in better outdoor play facilities for younger children around town, and partner with town based communities to improve playgrounds and/or community gardens.

Embed local culture, art and colour into the landscape

Halls Creek has a rich cultural heritage, that is not well reflected in its public spaces. There's a real opportunity to change that by bringing local stories, art, and culture into parks and streets through murals, sculptures, and creative spaces that honour Elders and celebrate community.

While previous efforts included signage and art, many of these installations appear dated or damaged. A fresh approach will create a more welcoming and engaging experience for both locals and visitors.





Roberta Ave



1. Remove and repurpose redundant shade structures.
2. Refresh art (multilingual signage and installations in Jaru, Gija and English).
3. Fix reticulation.
4. Repair stage and create an informal amphitheatre in Pioneer Park.
5. Liaise with RSL to explore opportunities to reinvigorate the War Memorial (detailed concept)
6. Remove hazardous infrastructure.
7. Enhance gathering spaces - i.e. children's play, gathering spaces for the Elderly and sorry time events.
8. Extend alfresco areas of the cafe.
9. New water fountains.

REBOOT RECREATION

Sport is the beating heart of regional communities, bringing people together to stay active, connect, and build lasting friendships. Halls Creek once had thriving sports programs for youth and adults, but ageing facilities and other challenges have led to their decline.

Halls Creek has some great sport and recreation facilities, including the pool and the undercover basketball courts. The oval was once regarded as the 'best' in the Kimberley.

The loss of football and regular programming has deeply affected the community – leaving youth disengaged, increasing crime, and making it harder for organisations to retain staff.

Youth Facilities

While the pool is a popular facility, the town generally lacks a broader range of facilities to keep youth engaged in positive and enriching activities. The pump track is not functional and bikes are difficult to maintain in the harsh terrain. There was a resounding call for a more diverse range of youth facilities – for young and older children. Kids would like to see the basketball courts fenced, and the multi-sport court concept was extremely well received.

The State Government has committed funding for a new skate park and splash park. Co-locating these facilities in the heart of town – next to the much-loved pool makes sense and maximises community benefit.

The Place Making Plan has identified a suitable location, based on a concept design by Skate Sculpture. Detailed design is being prepared as a next step, to map existing services and technical input on site constraints and opportunities. This work would also bolster the design of the Splash Park, to ensure both investments are durable, culturally sensitive and easy to maintain.

Future project budgets should include provisional funds for ongoing maintenance and security post-construction, with dedicated landscaping regimes and resources, and education and mentoring programs for youth to encourage respect and upkeep of the Skate Park.

Youth Activities

Dedicated resources to facilitate more regular programming and after school activities, and good CCTV coverage will ensure the facilities are looked after and well used. A drop-in space and continued investment in mentoring and professional support to help build capacity and capability of volunteers around town, is also important.

Recreation/Evacuation Centre

While the existing recreation facility serves a purpose, the town lacks essential amenities to support large regional events – particularly secure storage and compliant changing facilities for umpires and female participants. As an open venue exposed to wind and dust, it is difficult to maintain to a high standard and requires recladding with more durable, robust materials. Local clubs do not have a suitable space for club events and functions and the gym is very small, but highly valued as one of the few fitness facilities in town for adults.

Halls Creek is also without a suitable evacuation space with supporting amenities such as toilets and kitchen facilities to accommodate large regional catastrophes such as floods and bushfires.

Other communities across the Kimberley have successfully enhanced their recreation facilities to support regional emergency functions as evacuation centres.



Based on the Halls Creek Streetscape Concept, subject to Detailed Design.



1. Install new shade structures, seating and water fountains around the Basketball Courts.
2. Potential multi-sport court.
3. Create a youth 'chill out' space.
4. Upgrade WIFI infrastructure for the Recreation Centre
5. Replace pool fencing that is suitably compliant and consider screening options to protect from prevailing winds.
6. Future Splash Park and adjoining change rooms / toilet facilities.
7. Extend and revamp grassed and paved areas at to accommodate flexible programming.
8. Future Skate Park.
9. Install fitness park equipment around the oval and town.
10. Repair oval.
11. Remove security fence between the gym and oval to improve outlook and interface between the gym and the oval.
12. Maintain high standards for the gym facility.
13. Expand and upgrade the Recreation Centre to include club/change rooms and emergency evacuation facilities.

CULTURAL GATHERING HUB

The Cultural Gathering Hub will serve as an important gathering place at the heart of town, consolidating the Shire's most significant cultural and community assets.

By celebrating culture, encouraging participation, and strengthening collaboration, this area will become a cornerstone for long-term community cohesion and progress.

Building on the Cultural Centre concept already developed by the Shire, with the Jaru and Kija peoples, the precinct envisions an architecturally significant space that reflects land and culture while supporting healing and resilience. It will honour Traditional Owners, educate locals and visitors about the district's rich Aboriginal heritage, and create pathways for employment and cultural industries.

The Place Making Plan includes a high-level spatial analysis that integrates indoor and outdoor spaces with flexibility for staged development, based on potential uses that were identified through engagement discussions.

Drawing on comparative benchmarks, the analysis explored how various functions and facilities could be co-located, including an option that allows for future delivery of innovative housing models as a longer-term consideration.

An Illustrative Cultural Precinct Hub Masterplan is recommended as a next step, with extensive local engagement particularly with Kija and Jaru peoples, to further explore uses and activities, design direction, staging, implementation and funding strategies.

Library (Knowledge Centre)

The Aboriginal history of the southeast Kimberley remains largely hidden, with many stories unrecorded and existing accounts hard to access. In 2023–24, the Halls Creek community partnered with Nulungu Research Institute and the Shire to preserve this heritage, creating the first public collection and a 'living' digital bibliography through the Halls Creek Community Library and Repository Project.

The library in Halls Creek has not been operational for some time and Halls Creek is the only Shire in the Kimberley where people do not have access to free computers or WIFI. The proposed Cultural Hub offers an opportunity for a new civic space, which will include space and capacity for a dedicated Library and Knowledge Centre to house these resources.



Based on the Halls Creek Streetscape Concept, subject to Detailed Design.



- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| 1. Potential housing/commercial. | 5. Future micro business retail/support centre and training rooms. | displays and interpretative centre and amphitheatre for cultural events and performances. | 11. Potential future community hall/conference spaces. |
| 2. Visitor parking. | 6. Nature play and outdoor gathering. | 9. Separate indoor and outdoor spaces for men, women, Elders and youth business. | 12. Meeting/conference spaces including Court Diversion and Cultural Courts facility. |
| 3. Minor upgrades to existing community hall to improve utilisation. | 7. Quiet and contemplative outdoor spaces for sorry time business. | 10. Possible cultural tourism/retail. | 13. Potential coworking spaces. |
| 4. Future Library/Knowledge Centre. | 8. Kija and Jaru language cultural | | |

PLACE REBRAND

A place rebrand can revitalise Halls Creek by reshaping its image and attracting new opportunities.

Halls Creek has developed a reputation among outsiders that is complex and often polarised. The town is frequently associated with high youth crime, property theft, and break-ins – issues that have tarnished its image for visitors and essential workers. High levels of disadvantage further contribute to a narrative of dysfunction and vulnerability. Alongside infrastructure investment, it will be essential for the community to collaborate to create a shift in perception.

Place branding is about shaping and communicating a positive identity for a location to influence how it is perceived by residents, visitors, investors, and other stakeholders.

This involves more than just a logo or slogan – it requires consistent and cohesive messaging, visual elements such as colours and themes, and engaging initiatives like events and programs. When done well, place branding builds pride within the community, attracts tourism and investment, and creates a strong, unified story that resonates both locally and beyond.

Halls Creek has much to be proud of, including:

- **Gateway to iconic attractions** – Positioned near Purnululu National Park, Wolfe Creek Crater, Lake Gregory and China Wall, Halls Creek is an important destination for eco-tourism and cultural experiences.

- **Deep connections to culture** – Locals maintain a strong connection to culture and history, offering rich stories and traditions.
- **Community spirit** – Despite challenges, local leaders and youth demonstrate pride in their land and culture, driving grassroots efforts for positive change.

By working together, the Halls Creek community can counter negative stereotypes and reposition itself as a welcoming destination.

Key drivers to underpin a Place Rebrand, are captured on page 39.



Music in the Park



Movies in the Hall



Art in the Park



King of the Kimberley

PLACE ACTIVATION

Reflect and reinforce identity and values of Halls Creek.

- A cohesive Town Brand with consistent colours and landscaping themes.
- Upgrade tourism wayfinding and signage.
- Reinstate the Town Walk and create additional cultural history walking trails.
- Colourful artworks on shop fronts and blank walls.
- Progress the Hidden Histories Project: Truth-telling in the Halls Creek Shire.
- A permanent garden of local species, including food and medicines used for ceremony, art, tools, weaponry and infrastructure.

PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

Energise the community, restore pride, and foster belonging and optimism.

- Daily programming for all ages: mixed basketball, art in the park, workshops.
- Regular local activities to bring the community together: movie nights, music/cultural festivals.
- High profile annual regional events to put the town on the map (Wolfe Creek Crater).
- Capitalise on signature events with national profile to build legacy infrastructure (2028 Solar Eclipse).
- Small grants/mentoring to help locals run activities.
- Community-led volunteer initiatives to strengthen local skills and capacity.

ADVOCACY

Reposition Halls Creek as a must-visit destination and compelling investment proposition.

- Develop an Investment Prospectus and compelling narrative, showcasing future growth opportunities.
- Support/advocate for tourism marketing campaigns – put Halls Creek on the itinerary as a worthwhile destination for passing visitors.
- Advocate for policy reforms aimed at reducing the high cost of doing business in remote communities.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Platforms to highlight, promote and reinforce local success stories.

- Regularly share uplifting news and achievements from the community to build pride and shift perceptions.
- Maintain consistent messaging and a unified voice across all channels – local, regional, and national media, social platforms, and the official website.
- Celebrate community through imagery: Use photography from local events and everyday life to reinforce positive narratives and showcase Halls Creek's vibrancy.
- Release a community newspaper to foster pride and combat misinformation.

POSITION FOR PROSPERITY

The sealing of the Tanami Road is more than a transport upgrade – it's a game-changer for the Shire of Halls Creek. It has the potential to drive inclusive growth, create local jobs, and build long-term resilience in one of Australia's most disadvantaged regions.

The Tanami Road will open up exciting new economic opportunities for the Shire, in mining, agriculture and tourism. Halls Creek currently lacks critical infrastructure to ensure it is positioned to leverage this opportunity.

The Economic Impact Assessment¹ confirmed that without direct investment in the Shire to harness these opportunities, much of the benefit could flow elsewhere. To ensure the Shire of Halls Creek captures the full value, targeted action is needed.

Several strategic infrastructure investments will ensure the Shire is well positioned to capitalise on these opportunities. These have been highlighted in the Place Making Plan.

Halls Creek Business Park

The Shire continues to attract interest from potential investors across a range of industries, with Halls Creek ideally positioned as a hub for the freight and logistics sector. To support this demand, the Shire has identified 32 hectares of land for the development of a Business Park. Obtaining planning approvals and headworks funding, will unlock new opportunities by freeing up land to create additional industrial lots to accommodate logistics, warehousing, mechanical services, and tyre-fitting businesses.

Short Stay Accommodation

Investigate alternative sites close to town for a caravan park, including vacant land south of town and/or on existing properties around town. Upgrade camping facilities, including amenities at Old Halls Creek will provide important infrastructure for self-contained campers.

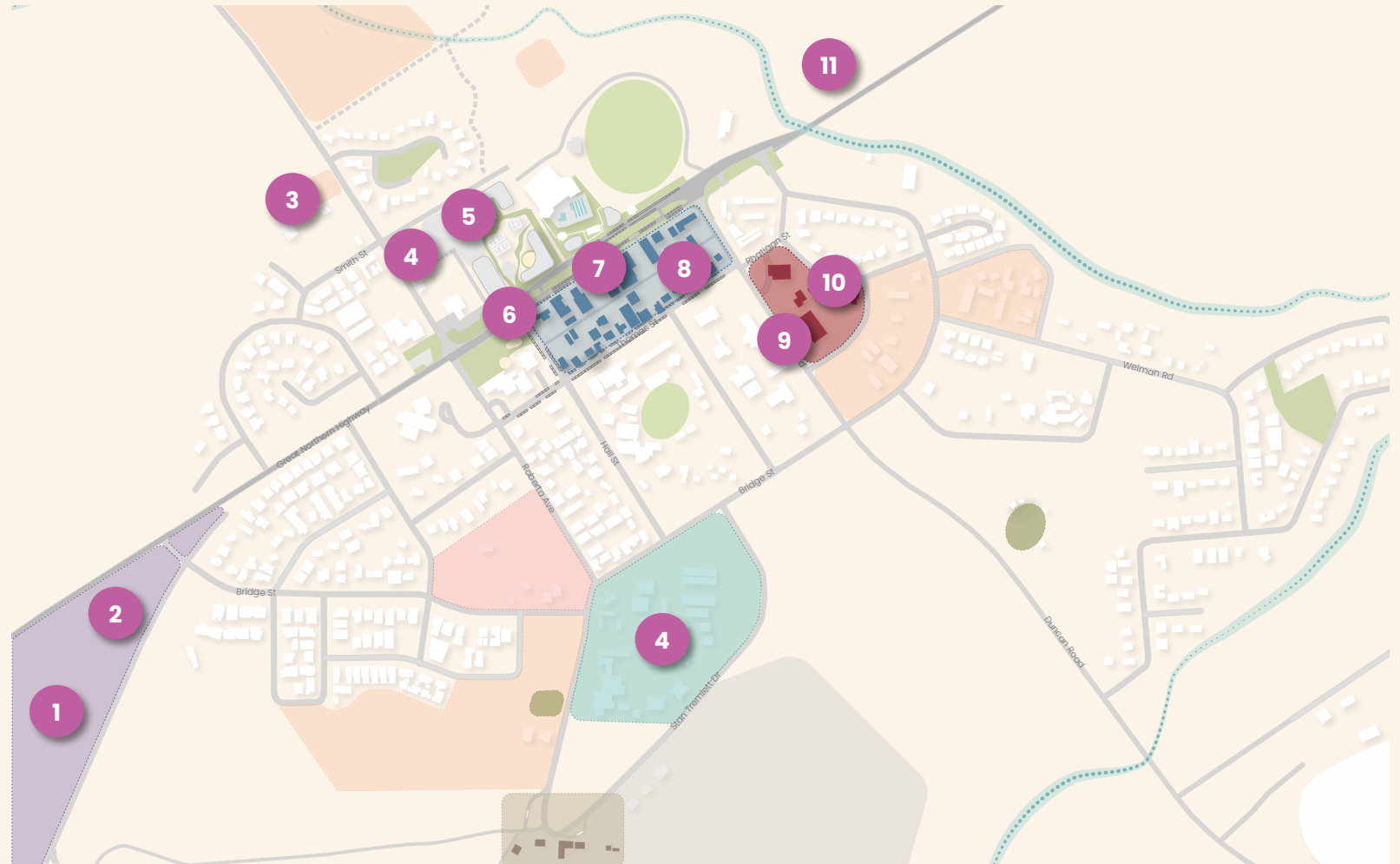
Housing

A severe housing shortage has led to overcrowding, poor health outcomes, and safety concerns. These challenges also make it difficult for organisations to attract and retain staff, and many essential services are either absent or operated remotely. Potential future housing sites have been identified in the Place Making Plan, for future exploration. A Lazy Lands strategy within town could further unlock additional sites suitable for immediate development within town.

Aboriginal Economic Development

A cornerstone of the Cultural Hub is a purpose-built multi-use cultural centre that could serve as a catalyst for the growth of Aboriginal tourism, featuring exhibition spaces, a visitor centre, and cultural learning opportunities. It would be a vibrant platform for partner organisations and new operators to share and celebrate Aboriginal heritage, stories and traditions. The precinct will also accommodate co-working spaces and meeting rooms to support training and emerging enterprise across hospitality, retail, and tourism.

¹ Economic Impact Assessment of Sealing the Tanami Road, Hatch, August 2025



1. Funding to establish the Halls Creek Business Park.
2. Potential Recycling Waste Water Treatment Plant.
3. Liaise with Main Roads to relocate the works depot and free up land for future housing.
4. Opportunity site for future housing innovation (i.e. Warmun single housing quarters).
5. Progress an Illustrative Masterplan for the Cultural Centre.
6. Future micro business, co-working and training spaces.
7. Main street upgrades will improve amenity and stimulate investment in retail.
8. Policy/scheme reviews to enable shop top housing for employees within the retail/mixed-use commercial precinct.
9. Alternative future dump point.
10. Transition industrial uses to the Halls Creek Business Park, to free up land for housing.
11. Renew current Planning Scheme, transition land currently zoned for a caravan park into housing.

REVITALISE THE MAIN STREET

The town faces very real barriers to growth on the back of high-profile safety concerns and limited accommodation options which discourage overnight stays.

Fewer shops have monopolised the market and locals and visitors both face extraordinarily high costs to cover basic living expenses. Locals want and deserve a better range of shops including more affordable fresh groceries, bakery, hardware and butcher. Without improvements, Halls Creek risks missing out on the economic benefits that increased tourism could bring.

The Shire can help to facilitate and incentivise new enterprises in food, beverage, and retail through street upgrades to improve amenity, targeted investment strategies and partnerships to activate underutilised spaces.

Despite being located in the heart of the Kimberley with a passing tourism trade, the retail offer in Halls Creek has dwindled dramatically in recent years. The sealing of the Tanami Road presents a powerful opportunity to reposition the town as an endeared destination for both domestic and international visitors – while also building a resilient retail and commercial centre for local residents.

Recreate a Vibrant Main Street

Consolidate retail, commercial and mixed-use activity between Great Northern Highway and Thomas Street to create a centralised hub that strengthens the town's identity and economic resilience.

- Streetscape upgrades will provide safer, more welcoming spaces that are better protected from the elements. This investment, in turn, will support local businesses by encouraging community use and visitor engagement.
- Transition non-conforming residential uses within designated areas to unlock opportunities for retail, commercial, and mixed-use developments, including shop-top housing.
- Some investors have purchased properties on Thomas Street, with the specific intent to provide secure accommodation options for their staff. All future development sites within this area should remain flexible to accommodate mixed-use activities.

Market Retail Investment Opportunities

Collaborate with property owners along Great Northern Highway and Thomas Street to activate vacant tenancies and bring new life to the town centre:

- Partner with investors and property owners to expand the retail offering and advocate for solutions to address the high cost of doing business in regional Australia.
- Some communities like Warmun have successfully set up Community Outback stores.

Be Visitor Ready

In addition to streetscape upgrades, the Place Making Plan sets out a vision for the town to be visitor ready, and give people a good reason to stop, including:

- Toilet upgrades and additional dump points.
- Tourism wayfinding and signage.
- Easy and convenient parking.

Work with locals to create enduring products including self-guided tours, memorials, storytelling and cultural history walking trails.



Main Street Upgrades



Wayfinding and Signage



Cohesive Town Brand



Embed Art and Culture



District Events



Support New Enterprise



TOURISM INDUSTRY

56,000

Overnight Stays
Shire of Halls Creek

64,000

Day Trip Visitors
Shire of Halls Creek

15%

Kimberley
Tourists to visit
Shire of Halls
Creek

6%

Kimberley
Visitors that stay
overnight in Shire of
Halls Creek

TOURISM JOBS (SEALING OF THE TANAMI)

Additional Jobs

100

Forecast FTE
70 within the
accommodation
and food sector

Halls Creek
Tourism Businesses

17

Supported by an
increase in
tourism activity

Gross Regional
Product

+\$14.3m

growth p.a in Shire's
Tourism Industry

Data Source: Economic Impact Assessment of Sealing the Tanami Road, Hatch, August 2025

HALLS CREEK AIRPORT UPGRADE

Halls Creek airport is owned by the Shire, and provides access to a range of essential services. This includes a mixture of scheduled passenger services, general aviation, and charter services, such as the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), tourism, mining, agricultural and government services. It performs a critical role in emergency management response and recovery efforts, and is important for the tourism industry with the airport as the base for tours to the UNESCO listed World Heritage Site at Purnululu National Park. The airport also services the remote Aboriginal community of Balgo, along with flights to Kununurra.

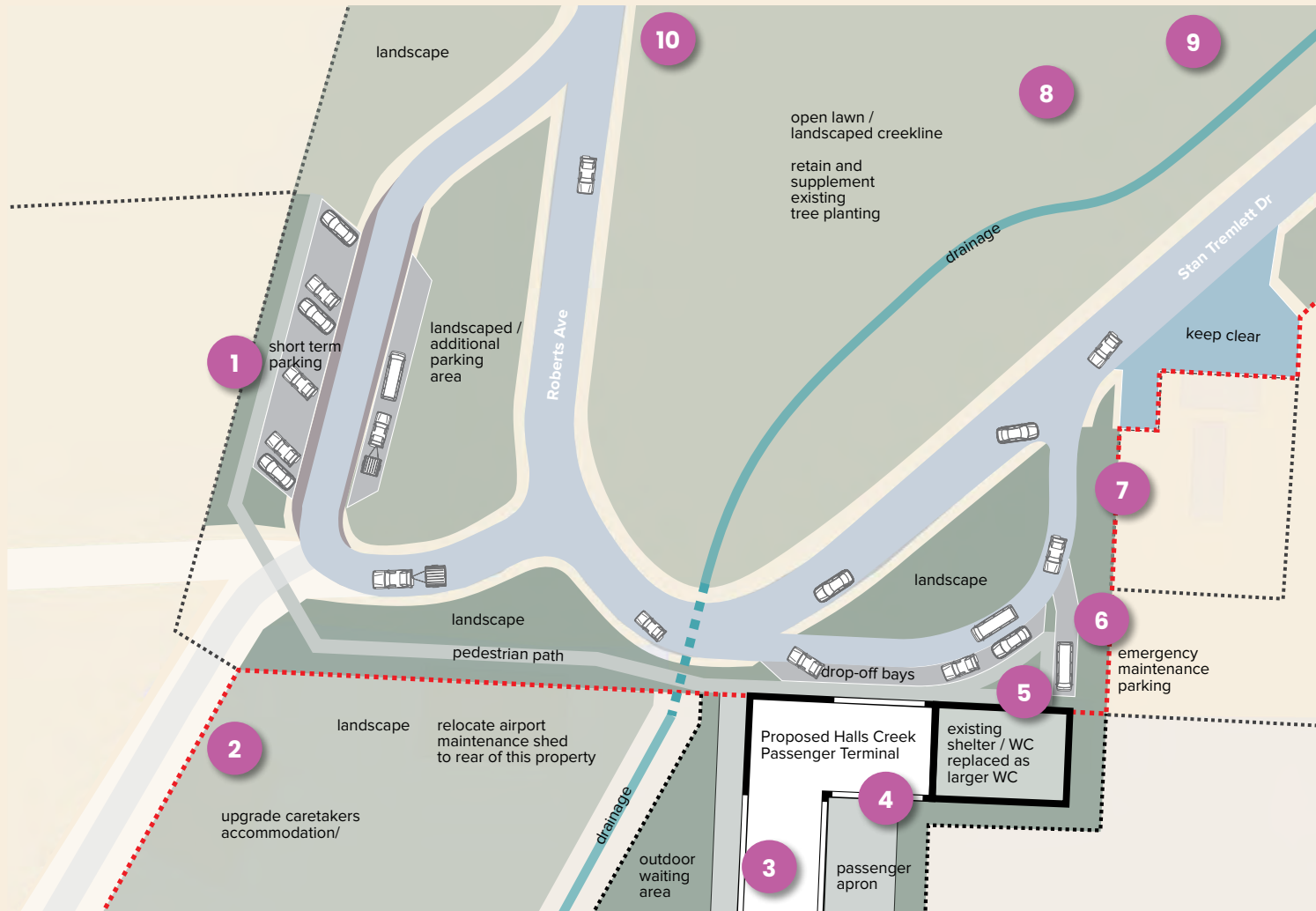
Once construction of the Tanami Road is complete, demand at Halls Creek airport is expected to increase—driven by growth in tourism and fly-in fly-out activity supporting mining operations. To meet this demand, upgrades to airport facilities will be essential.

The airport currently offers only basic amenities. There are no formal passenger facilities, just an outdoor shade shelter for layovers. The fuel facility lacks proper security, and caretaker accommodation is in poor condition. Despite hosting a high number of RFDS flights, patients, doctors, and nurses are left exposed to the elements while waiting for aircraft. The lack of infrastructure undermines the airport's role in supporting critical health and emergency services. Other key challenges at the Airport include:

- the runway length confines the type of planes that can land (up to 19-seater).
- no hangars.
- no terminal building – a small, outdoor open departure and arrival area.
- ageing airport infrastructure.
- the toilet and access areas are not accessible to people with disabilities.
- limited opportunities for diversified revenue streams.

With upgraded facilities, the airport could be better placed to support emergency response situations for remote communities.

The Place Making Plan has identified some of the guiding considerations to be explored in the preparation of an Airport Masterplan.



New Terminal and RFDS Facilities



Preserve the Mango Tree



Welcome Signage

1. Sufficient parking for light vehicles and buses (future demand).
2. Upgrade caretaker's accommodation.
3. Upgrade passenger terminal with check-in/baggage handling.
4. A dedicated facility for the RFDS, including patient privacy and shelter from the elements.
5. Preserve the mango tree.
6. Truck access/egress for the fuel farm.
7. Realign the fencing to secure fuel facilities.
8. Investigate options to expand the runway to service larger aircraft.
9. Investigate the feasibility of the second runway.
10. Optimise use of the existing hangers.

SECTION THREE

DELIVERY FRAMEWORK

The Delivery Framework provides a clear roadmap to ensure projects are accountable, well-managed, sustainable, and deliver real community benefits.

Halls Creek is a remote town ready for change. A strong vision and a united approach present a compelling case for new infrastructure. Funding partners will expect existing assets to be well-managed and actively used, to demonstrate need and clear benefit for the community.

The Delivery Framework is underpinned by the following critical success factors:

- **Building Strong Partnerships:** Share responsibility and increase impact through collaboration.
- **Better Use of Existing Facilities:** Activate and maintain current assets to maximise value.
- **Strengthening Service Delivery:** Ensure spaces are supported by ongoing services.

The Framework reflects the community priorities and offers a clear roadmap to bring that vision to life through short-term actions and long-term transformations. It prioritises making better use of existing assets before seeking major new investment, while planning for sustainable improvements.

The Delivery Framework is supported by a **Structured Design Process and Delivery Program** to ensure that future investment which stems from these concept ideas, leaves a lasting and positive legacy for the town.

SHORT-TERM WINS

- Quick wins that build momentum and community confidence.
- Low-cost improvements to existing spaces.
- Programming and showcasing local art and culture in visible, meaningful ways.

LONG-TERM VISION

- Informed by a structured approach to guide future investment and design.
- Aligning projects with community needs and available resources.
- Robust planning to maintain continuity despite staff turnover or changes in funding.

BETTER USE OF EXISTING FACILITIES

Activate and maintain current assets to maximise value.

Making a case for investment in new infrastructure will be challenging unless existing facilities, like the Recreation Centre and Community Hall, are operating effectively and well-utilised.

As a small Shire with limited resources, leveraging existing partnerships will be essential, to ensure facilities are being used to their full potential. These may include:

- conducting a space utilisation review for all Shire facilities and underutilised assets around town.
- progressing low-cost improvements to upgrade the Community Hall to accommodate more events.
- establishing a booking platform to actively encourage community groups to book and utilise vacant civic facilities.
- exploring options to make shower facilities in the recreation centre available for travellers (small fee).
- working with State Government, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCO's) and other parties to ensure there are adequate resources to support more frequent and dedicated programming in all civic facilities.



STRENGTHEN SERVICE DELIVERY

There's a great opportunity for the Shire to lead the way and improve the standard of presentation around town, to inspire businesses, property owners, and residents to take pride in their surroundings.

Public spaces, and some civic buildings and private properties around town are in a state of neglect. Dilapidated infrastructure, widespread graffiti, and poorly maintained landscaping fall short of the standards seen in other regional WA communities. Moreover, residents in some areas do not currently have access to a rubbish service.

Some key focus areas to strengthen service delivery include:

- **Safe, Clean Welcoming** – Keep high-profile areas – including public toilets – safe, clean, and inviting.
- **High-Standard Maintenance** – Ensure all facilities and equipment are well-maintained, clean, and in good working order.
- **Interim landscaping and infrastructure repairs** – A maintenance blitz will help to improve the function and usability of the parks and open spaces immediately.
- **Local Jobs and Training** – Create casual employment and mentoring opportunities for local youth and unemployed through landscaping, footpath replacement programs and maintenance projects.
- **Support Local Contractors** – Use local businesses for maintenance and landscaping to build jobs, community pride, and long-term capability.
- **Staff Accountability** – Assign clear responsibility for areas, build capability, and explore performance measures and incentives.
- **Partner with Property Owners** – Work together to improve the appearance of properties in high-profile areas.
- **Streetscape Standards** – Implement a Streetscape Maintenance Policy to set clear compliance standards for property presentation.
- **Plan and budget for ongoing maintenance** – Prepare maintenance regimes, and allocate resources for ongoing work and future surveillance of new infrastructure (e.g. Splash Park, Skate Park, Pioneer Park).

An overview of some of the low-cost, quick-win improvements to build momentum and community confidence are featured on page 49.

QUICK WINS

Quick-win, low-cost improvements will build momentum, boost community confidence and create visible and meaningful change.



BUILD STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS

Stronger partnerships and collaboration are key to bringing the ideas in this plan to life. The Shire will formalise a governance structure to oversee the implementation of this Place Making Plan, to share responsibility and increase impact through collaboration.

Halls Creek is home to many groups – government agencies, community organisations, and ACCO's—all working to support the district. But fractured relationships have made progress difficult. Moving forward, real change will come from working together.

To address the extraordinary and complex challenges currently facing Halls Creek, a focused commitment to shared goals and coordinated collaboration is essential. Stronger partnerships will be key to building on what's already in town, to set the stage for future growth.

The project initiatives and recommendations which stem from the Place Making Plan provide an ideal platform to bring everyone together, and align efforts for the collective benefit of the community.

Important partnership alliances include:

- ACCO partnerships to expand structured programming opportunities within the Shire's facilities, across all hours of the week and weekends.
- Property owners along Great Northern Highway and Thomas Street to activate vacant tenancies and bring new life to the town centre.
- Industry representatives, TAFE, high school and training providers to facilitate courses and programs appropriate to demand.
- Investors/property owners to expand the retail offering and advocate for solutions to address the high cost of doing business in regional Australia.
- Developers/State Agencies/Housing providers to explore Innovative Housing Models and capitalise on lazy land opportunities to build new and diverse housing typologies.
- Local sporting clubs on 'rules of behaviour' to mitigate the risk of damage to Shire infrastructure on game days.

PLACE MAKING COMMITTEE

It is recommended that the Shire establish a governance structure to oversee the future implementation of the Place Making Plan. A well-structured, inclusive approach will rebuild trust, strengthen collaboration, and minimise conflict in a culturally sensitive environment. By ensuring broad representation, the structure will bring forward diverse perspectives, promote shared ownership, and maintain cultural relevance.

This collaborative model will enhance transparency, foster accountability, and create a strong foundation for community support, ensuring solutions reflect local values and aspirations. A proposed structure is outlined on page 57.



SHIRE OF HALLS CREEK CEO

PLACE MAKING PLAN COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- Terms and conditions
- Rules of engagement
- Membership criteria

MEMBERSHIP

- Shire of Halls Creek CEO (Chair)
- Shire of Halls Creek CEO (other delegated representatives)
- Community organisations / ACCO's (by invitation)
- 4x community representatives via publicly advertised expression of interest process)
- Jaru PBC (x1)
- Kija PBC (x1)
- Kimberley Development Commission
- 2 x business representatives via public advertisement (expression of interest process)
- State Government Agencies (by invitation / as required)

STRUCTURED DESIGN PROCESS

To ensure the ideas identified in the Place Making Plan last and really work for the town, it's important to plan carefully, design thoughtfully, and roll things out in stages.

Historically, streetscape, town beautification and infrastructure upgrades have been approached in an ad hoc manner, largely dependent on sporadic funding availability and shifting political priorities.

There hasn't been a strong focus on the town as a whole, and high staff turnover has made it difficult to maintain continuity in project delivery.

While some projects have been successfully delivered, ongoing management and maintenance have often been overlooked. This has affected the long-term impact of public realm investments and made it harder to build momentum.

The Shire is now working to turn this around by supporting ongoing services, improving how existing facilities are used, and taking a more strategic approach to future planning.

Thoughtful and considered planning will create the opportunity to properly understand existing services and infrastructure constraints, balanced with the needs and expectations of the community.

Taking the time to get this process right will result in public spaces that are cohesive, welcoming, and reflective of Halls Creek's values. This includes the structured placement of infrastructure, for example, to ensure these elements are both functional and culturally meaningful. Investment in a detailed design and construction approach will also provide an opportunity to incorporate water-sensitive urban design to support sustainability and resilience in response to the town's desert environment.

It is recommended that the Concept Designs proposed in this Place Making Plan are

executed by a clear and well-structured design and construction process. This is important because it helps ensure that improvements are:

- **Consistent** – Projects follow a standard process from concept to construction.
- **Efficient** – Clear steps help avoid delays, cost overruns, and duplicated effort.
- **High Quality** – Designs are safe, accessible, and suited to local conditions.
- **Long-Lasting** – Good design and construction reduce future maintenance needs.
- **Accountable** – Progress can be tracked and resources used wisely.
- **Valuable to the Community** – Spaces are well-used, enjoyed, and easier to justify for future funding.

ILLUSTRATIVE MASTERPLAN ▶

Visual storytelling, rendered site plan, vision statement, costing ±25%

CONCEPT DESIGN ▶

Site analysis, mood boards, sketches, design intent, costing ±25%

DETAILED DESIGN ▶

Landscape plans, planting specifications, coordination, costing ±15%

DOCUMENTATION ▶

Construction drawings, schedules, permits, tender package

TENDER ▶

Bid invitations, evaluations, scoring, contracts

CONSTRUCTION

Execution, inspections, progress claims, completion certificates

DELIVERY PROGRAM

● Master Plan
 ● Concept Design
 ● Detailed Design
 ● Documentation
 ● Tender
 ● Construction
 ● Funding Request
 ● Business Case/Feasibility
 ● Community Consultation

Item	Output	Total Indicative Cost (Estimated)	Current FY				Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5				Year 6				Year 7				Year 8				Year 9				Year 10			
			2025-2026				2026-2027				2027-2028				2028-2029				2029-2030				2030-2031				2031-2032				2032-2033				2033-2034				2034-2035				2035-2036			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Great Northern Highway Realignment	- Continue to liaise with Main Roads to progress detailed design, funding approval, documentation and construction for the GNH Realignment - Ensure close alignment with the Halls Creek Streetscape Concept featured in the Place Making Plan.	- Main Roads Project EST. \$15M - Concept Design (high-level costing ±25%) - Detailed Design (detailed costing ±15%)																																												
Halls Creek Streetscape Upgrades	- Progress detailed design and documentation to implement the Halls Creek Streetscape Concept. - Ensure all design considerations are closely aligned with the GNH Realignment detailed design. - Noting minimal work can be progressed, pending construction of the proposed GNH Realignment.	EST. \$4.5m - Funding Approved: \$1.2m Cost Estimates (% overall construction): - Concept (10%) - Design and Documentation (20%) - Ongoing maintenance strategy and resources (to be determined)																																												

DELIVERY FRAMEWORK

● Master Plan
 ● Concept Design
 ● Detailed Design
 ● Documentation
 ● Tender
 ● Construction
 ● Funding Request
 ● Business Case/Feasibility
 ● Community Consultation

Item	Output	Total Indicative Cost (Estimated)	Current FY				Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5				Year 6				Year 7				Year 8				Year 9				Year 10			
			2025–2026				2026–2027				2027–2028				2028–2029				2029–2030				2030–2031				2031–2032				2032–2033				2033–2034				2034–2035				2035–2036			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Sustainable Water Funding Project	Liaise with Water Corp to progress detailed design, documentation and construction for the construction of four bores (two refurbished and two new), and associated pipeline.	To be confirmed																																												
Halls Creek Business Park	Prepare viability assessment, develop business case. Subject to funding approvals, progress concept, detailed design, tender and construction.	Business Case / Feasibility (10%)																																												
Skate Park	Progress a design and construct contract (based on concept prepared by Skate Sculpture).	EST. \$800k - Concept (10%) - Design & Documentation (20%) - Construction (20%) - Ongoing maintenance strategy, security, education and resources (to be determined)																																												

Item	Output	Total Indicative Cost (Estimated)	Current FY				Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5				Year 6				Year 7				Year 8				Year 9				Year 10				
			2025–2026				2026–2027				2027–2028				2028–2029				2029–2030				2030–2031				2031–2032				2032–2033				2033–2034				2034–2035				2035–2036				
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4					
Splash Park + Toilet Block + Fence	- Progress a project initiation plan for the Splash Park, followed by concept design, detailed design and adjoining toilet / changing facilities. - Incorporate the Skate Park Concept Design (prepared by Skate Sculpture), followed by documentation and construction.	EST. \$4M - Concept (10%) - Design & Documentation (20%) –Construction (20%) - Ongoing maintenance strategy, security, education and resources (to be determined)																																													
Recreation Centre Upgrades <i>Expand facility to include evacuation facilities, changing rooms and club rooms</i>	Progress a concept design for the Recreation Centre, including extensive community engagement, to include fit for purpose change rooms, club room facilities and facilities for Emergency Evacuation.	EST. \$30M + (Based on precedent examples, subject to concept design and detailed planning) - Concept (10%) - Design and Documentation (20%) - Ongoing maintenance strategy and resources (to be determined)																																													

DELIVERY FRAMEWORK

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Item	Output	Total Indicative Cost (Estimated)	Current FY				Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5				Year 6				Year 7				Year 8				Year 9				Year 10				
			2025-2026				2026-2027				2027-2028				2028-2029				2029-2030				2030-2031				2031-2032				2032-2033				2033-2034				2034-2035				2035-2036				
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4					
Pioneer Park Upgrades	Stage One Progress interim works to refresh the park – including fix reticulation, remove hazardous material and redundant shade structures, repair stage, install new shade shelters and seating, install new water fountains, refresh art and signage.	EST. \$2-3M Subject to Concept + Detailed Design - Construction cost subject to finalisation of Concept Design Cost Estimates (% overall construction): - Concept Design (10%) - Detailed Design and Documentation (20%) - Ongoing maintenance strategy and resources (to be determined)																																													
	Stage Two Progress detailed design for Pioneer park, including feature elements such as the amphitheatre, playground, deck area and potential war memorial relocation. This strategy proposes the concept and detailed design is progressed alongside the Recreation Centre Upgrades.																																														

Item	Output	Total Indicative Cost (Estimated)	Current FY				Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5				Year 6				Year 7				Year 8				Year 9				Year 10			
			2025–2026				2026–2027				2027–2028				2028–2029				2029–2030				2030–2031				2031–2032				2032–2033				2033–2034				2034–2035				2035–2036			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Welman Road Park Upgrades	- Progress a concept design to guide future upgrades to local parks. - Detailed design and construction to be staged over a five year period, subject to funding and partnerships with communities over a five year period.	- Estimated Cost Subject to Concept + Detailed Design - Ongoing maintenance strategy and resources (to be resolved through detailed design)																																												
Yardgee Park Upgrades																																														
Mardiwah Loop Park Upgrades																																														
Nicholson Block Park Upgrades																																														
Red Hill (Lundja) Park Upgrades																																														
Halls Creek Airport Upgrades	Seek funding approval and progress the Airport Masterplan in partnership with AMS.	AMS Australia (and Shire of Halls Creek) Masterplan: Approx. \$90–100k Upgrades subject to finalisation of Masterplan Concept																																												
Cultural and Civic Hub	Prepare an Illustrative Masterplan (extensive engagement) and supporting Business Case, for the Cultural and Civic Hub - Advocate for funding approval. - Progress concept design, documentation and construction.	EST. Approx. \$500K (Illustrative Masterplan) Construction cost subject to finalisation of Masterplan Concept Design																																												

Note: Greater efficiencies and consistency will be achieved by progressing the concept and detailed design for all parks simultaneously. Construction can then be staged over time as funding becomes available. This strategy proposes the concept and detailed design is progressed alongside the Recreation Centre Upgrades

CONCLUSION

The Halls Creek Place Making Plan sets out a bold, community driven vision to transform the town into a safe, vibrant, and culturally rich destination. Guided by the Strategic Community Plan and shaped by extensive local engagement, this plan responds to the challenges of isolation, infrastructure gaps, and socio-economic disadvantage with practical, achievable strategies.

KEY OUTCOMES OF THE PLAN

- A Shared Vision: Built on four pillars – United, Beautiful and Respected, Safe and Healthy, and Prosperous and Equitable – to create a town that celebrates culture, fosters wellbeing, and drives inclusive growth.
- Ten Key Moves: From revitalising the main street and upgrading recreation facilities to creating cultural hubs and safer streets, these initiatives aim to improve public spaces, strengthen community pride, and attract investment.
- Delivery: A structured roadmap prioritising short-term wins and long-term transformation, underpinned by strong partnerships, better use of existing facilities, and improved service delivery.

WHY IT MATTERS

The sealing of the Tanami Road and other strategic investments present a once-in-a-generation opportunity for Halls Creek. By implementing this plan, the Shire can leverage these developments to create jobs, boost tourism, and build resilience, while honouring the heritage and aspirations of the Jaru and Kija peoples.

NEXT STEPS

Formalise governance and implementation through a Place Making Committee.

- Progress detailed design for priority projects such as the Skate Park, Splash Park and Toilet Facilities, Pioneer Park, Recreation Centre upgrades, and Cultural Hub.
- Advocate for funding and partnerships to deliver transformative infrastructure and programs, including the Great Northern Highway Realignment.

This plan is more than a blueprint – it is an invitation to work together to create a thriving, inclusive, and proud Halls Creek for generations to come.

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