

WARATAH-WYNYARD

Community Wellbeing Plan

2025 - 2030

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Mayor's Message

Over the past year we have heard residents, community groups and service providers speak about what helps them live well in Waratah-Wynyard. Their ideas, combined with evidence on the social determinants of health and Council's principles of collaboration, equity and innovation, underpin the Community Wellbeing Plan 2025-2030.

More than 200 voices - young people, families, older adults, Aboriginal representatives and local organisations — contributed through surveys, workshops and "Sidewalk Talk" pop-ups, highlighting the need for better access to services, stronger support for young people and clearer communication between groups.

The Plan answers these calls through five (5) strategic themes— Healthy & Well, Connected & Active, Safe Families & Communities, Vibrant & Inclusive, and Skills for Life - each matched with actions Council will deliver, enable or advocate for, favouring steady, achievable gains over grand promises.

Its success is founded on partnership: Council will work with volunteers, community leaders, businesses and other tiers of government, measure progress openly and adapt as needs change. I thank everyone who contributed and invite all residents to stay involved as we turn this plan into practical results for Waratah-Wynyard.



Mayor Mary Duniam
Waratah-Wynyard Council

About the Community Plan

The Waratah-Wynyard Community Wellbeing Plan sets out a clear and considered planning roadmap, designed to inform Council how it can work to strengthen health, inclusion, connectedness, and resilience across the community. It recognises that wellbeing is shaped by more than just services alone, and is influenced by the places we live, how we live, the opportunities we have, and the people around us.

This plan is built on the social determinants of health, which considers how factors like education, employment, safety, culture, environment and connection all contribute to our overall quality of life. It also draws on what we have heard from our community and what matters most to them, whilst also aligning to broader planning directions across the state and country.

Noting a growing focus across Tasmania in the role of local government in supporting community wellbeing, Councils are now being asked to think more broadly about how planning, infrastructure, events, services, and partnerships can all help create communities where people feel supported and have what they need to live well. This is particularly important here in Waratah-Wynyard, where local knowledge, relationships, and place-based solutions are key.

This plan presents us with a practical framework to guide our work, aligned to the Mission, Vision and Values of our Council. It helps Council stay focused and responsive to what matters, enables informed decision-making, and coordinates a response to emerging needs in a way that strengthens our community over time. It's a plan that aims to bring people together, support healthy choices, and continue to make Waratah-Wynyard a great place to live at every stage of life.

Guiding Principles

Collaboration: Working with those already engaged, or potentially affected, to enable a collective approach and response.

Equity: Supporting everyone in our community to live our best life, whatever their strengths, challenge, or background.

Innovation and Adaptation: Being creative and willing to try new things whilst able to learn, change and adapt as required.

Win-Win-Win Planning: Achieving across multiple domains, able to demonstrate felt benefit in multiple ways through the work we deliver.

Multiple, Incremental Gains: Ongoing, small steps in the right direction, rather than trying to 'fix' everything at once.

Outcome and Scale-Focused: Progressing genuine, sustained improvements for and with as many people as possible.

Developing the Plan

This plan has been built from the ground up—shaped by research, local knowledge, and conversations with people across the Waratah-Wynyard community. It reflects what matters most to residents, while aligning with broader priorities across Tasmania and Australia, including the Healthy Tasmania Strategy and the Tasmanian Wellbeing Framework. A review of existing Council strategies ensured a clear and coordinated approach.

The plan is both evidence-based and informed by community input. Engagement activities included stakeholder meetings, school workshops, elected member discussions, and informal “Sidewalk Talk” pop-ups. A community survey provided further insight into lived experiences around health, access, connection, and support.

A broad mix of voices was heard—young people, older adults, Aboriginal organisations, service providers, community groups, and residents from all walks of life. Consistent themes emerged:

- Improved access to local services
- Stronger support for young people
- Increased collaboration between groups and services
- Clearer, more consistent communication across the community.

These insights helped shape five (5) key themes that reflect community values and needs, while providing a practical, all-of-life framework to guide Council decision-making. The plan brings together and replaces three (3) previous strategies—the Youth Plan, Age-Friendly Communities Plan, and Health and Wellbeing Plan—into one cohesive, future-focused document.

The result is a clear, realistic, and forward-thinking plan designed to guide local action, support partnerships, and strengthen wellbeing across the Waratah-Wynyard community.



Community Reflections

In developing the plan, residents were invited to share their experiences and insights through a range of channels. This was to ensure a broader range of voices could be captured and provide a valuable snapshot of community life, highlighting what's working well - and where more attention is needed. Their reflections are captured below.

BIGGEST STRENGTHS of WARATAH-WYNYARD:

The community noted the local community spirit as an overwhelming strength of the region, contributing significantly to the livability and sense of belonging. Other recognised strengths included the provision of public places and open spaces, as well as the quality of schools in the region. Whilst also an area of focus and priority, the community did recognise the strengthening of public safety and an increase in the range of healthy food options available locally.

FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY WELLBEING:

There was a common response amongst residents when asked to rank factors that contributed to community wellbeing, with family and friends, quality of local environment, healthcare, the range and accessibility of community facilities, and employment opportunities being the top five (5) factors.

FACTORS THAT LIMIT PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY:

When asked to identify factors that impacted an individual's ability to participate in their community, things such as a lack of free time, difficulties accessing information, a shortage of things of interest to residents, costs of activities, and health factors were ranked as the top five (5) factors.

TOP 5 PRIORITIES for Council to enhance overall wellbeing:



Advocate for increased affordable housing



Crime and safety prevention



Facilitate a range of activities and things to do



Facilitate connections to natural environment



Advocate for increased mental health services and supports

The priorities identified through the Community Reflections, as well as other insights, research, and observations have helped inform and guide development of the Strategic Themes of the Community Wellbeing Plan.

Strategic Themes

- 1 **Healthy & Well**
- 2 **Connected & Active**
- 3 **Safe Families & Communities**
- 4 **Vibrant & Inclusive**
- 5 **Skills for Life**

Key Life Stages

EARLY YEARS:

Setting the foundation for lifelong learning, this stage spans from birth (and pre- birth) through to young adulthood. It's a time where connection, safety, and belonging matters most. Supporting this group means creating inclusive spaces to play, learn, socialise, and thrive - whether through school, community events, youth programs, or early education. It's also about ensuring young people feel heard, supported, and have clear pathways to participate and contribute.

MIDDLE YEARS:

Often the busiest stage of life, the middle years are shaped by work, family, and community roles. People in this group are often juggling multiple responsibilities whilst also contributing significantly to the local economy, services, and social networks. Planning for this life stage involves supporting access to housing, stable employment, reliable services, and flexible opportunities to stay active, connected, and healthy.

LATER YEARS:

The later years are about staying connected, valued, and independent for as long as possible. Many in this group remain active in the community through employment, volunteering, and caring for their network. At the same time, health and mobility needs can change. Planning in this stage means ensuring older adults can access the care, housing, transport, networks, and opportunities that they need to live well, safely, and with dignity.



WARATAH WYNYARD <small>Waratah-Wynyard Council</small>		DATE: 18 th April 2024	
TO: Somerset Soccer Club		OR BEARER:	
THE SUM OF: One Thousand Dollars		NOT NEGOTIABLE	\$ 1,000
WARATAH WYNYARD Waratah-Wynyard Council P98332P 828-231658321-3125			

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Healthy & Well

FOCUS: Being healthy means having the opportunity to thrive - physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally - at every stage of life. We celebrate positive wellbeing through access to quality health care, active lifestyles, and supportive services that meet the needs of our diverse community. This theme is about creating and developing the conditions for people to live well and stay well, with a focus on inclusion, community, health, positive ageing, and promoting active lifestyles for all ages. Through the range of actions and initiatives, the aim is to continue to build a community where wellbeing is part of everyday life.

PRIORITY 1: Ensure high quality, accessible services for all of community.	LIFE STAGES	COUNCIL'S ROLE
1.1.1 Review and improve Council programs to enhance access, inclusion, and community participation.	ALL	Deliver
1.1.2 Promote access to free or low-cost community spaces that support participation and social connection.	ALL	Deliver Collaborate Enable
1.1.3 Work with local organisations to improve access to inclusive, timely, and culturally safe health services whilst strengthening the connection of isolated and vulnerable residents to services and support.	ALL	Deliver Collaborate
1.1.4 Carry out regular community needs assessments to identify service gaps and guide future planning.	ALL	Deliver
PRIORITY 2: Educate and empower positive health choices among community.	LIFE STAGES	COUNCIL'S ROLE
1.2.1 Work with schools, services, and community groups to include health education and wellbeing in local programs.	ALL	Collaborate Enable
1.2.2 Create inclusive health resources and programs that promote healthy eating, physical activity, mental health, and sexual health.	ALL	Deliver Enable
1.2.3 Strengthen Council's communication channels, resources, and services, ensuring they are accessible to all of community and enable residents to receive information about services, events, and activities happening locally.	ALL	Deliver
1.2.4 Run and support programs and initiatives that deliver health education and local health activities (food programs, walking groups, etc.), as well as those aimed at reducing harmful behaviours (e.g. substance use, gambling, vaping).	ALL	Collaborate Deliver Enable
1.2.5 Support resident access to specialist health initiatives such as the Patient Travel Assistance Scheme and First 1000 Days project.	ALL	Collaborate Enable

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Healthy & Well

PRIORITY 3: Build community capacity to support resident health and wellbeing.	LIFE STAGES	COUNCIL'S ROLE
1.3.1 Involve residents in a range of opportunities, enabling them to inform, shape, and co-design actions that support the health and wellbeing of the community.	ALL	Collaborate Deliver
1.3.2 Work with local organisations to build people's skills and confidence to take care of their own health and wellbeing needs.	ALL	Collaborate Deliver Enable
1.3.3 Work with community groups to grow their services and support, encouraging greater community involvement and supporting a peer-led community response.	ALL	Collaborate Enable
1.3.4 Respond to the needs of carers - including formal, informal, and young carers - by improving access to information, networks, and support.	ALL	Collaborate Enable
1.3.5 Continue to facilitate annual grant funding opportunities that support healthy living, promote connections, and encourage active lifestyles.	ALL	Deliver
1.3.6 Raise awareness of dementia and reduce barriers to support and service access for carers and people living with dementia.	Middle Years Later Years	Collaborate Deliver
PRIORITY 4: Advocate for high quality, accessible, affordable, and responsive health services.	LIFE STAGES	COUNCIL'S ROLE
1.4.1 Advocate for better access to mental health services into the region, especially for children, young people, and vulnerable residents.	ALL	Advocate Collaborate Enable
1.4.2 Work with service providers to create flexible, evidence-based responses to local health needs.	ALL	Enable
1.4.3 Follow through on Council's Access to Health Service commitments to strengthen availability and access.	ALL	Deliver
1.4.4 Work with others on long-term, sustainable patient transport solutions whilst advocating for improvements to specialist transport schemes like the Patient Travel Assistance Scheme.	ALL	Advocate Collaborate Enable