



# Welcome to West Arthur

Residential and Business Prospectus





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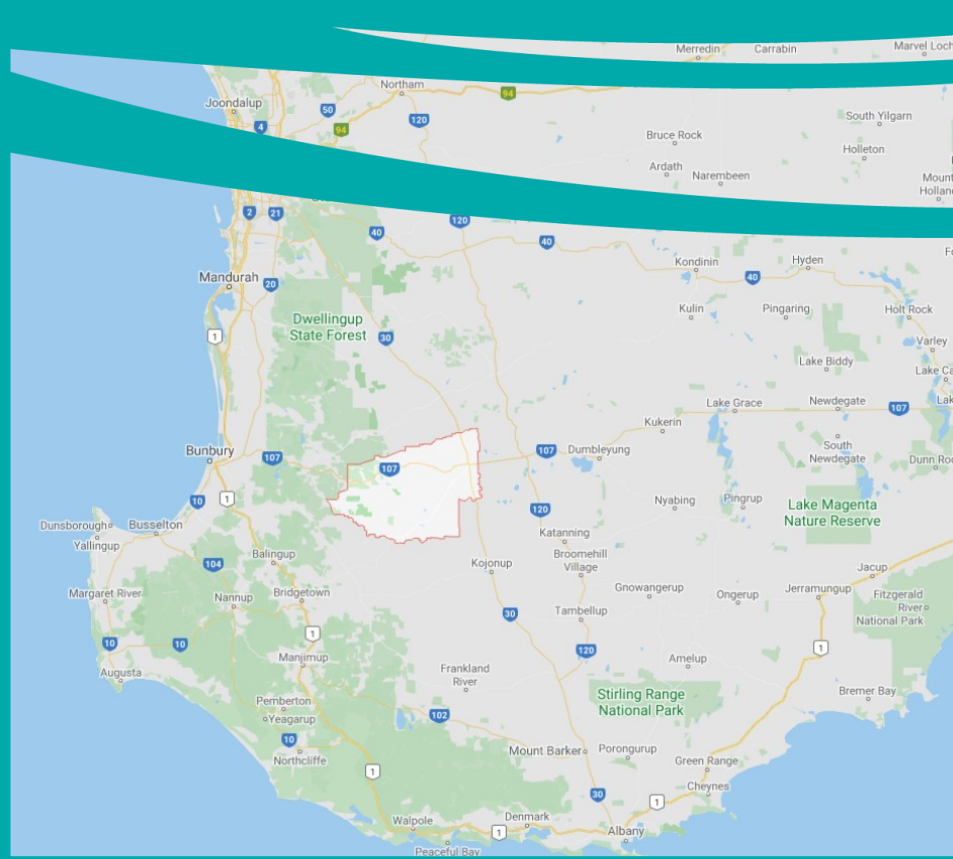




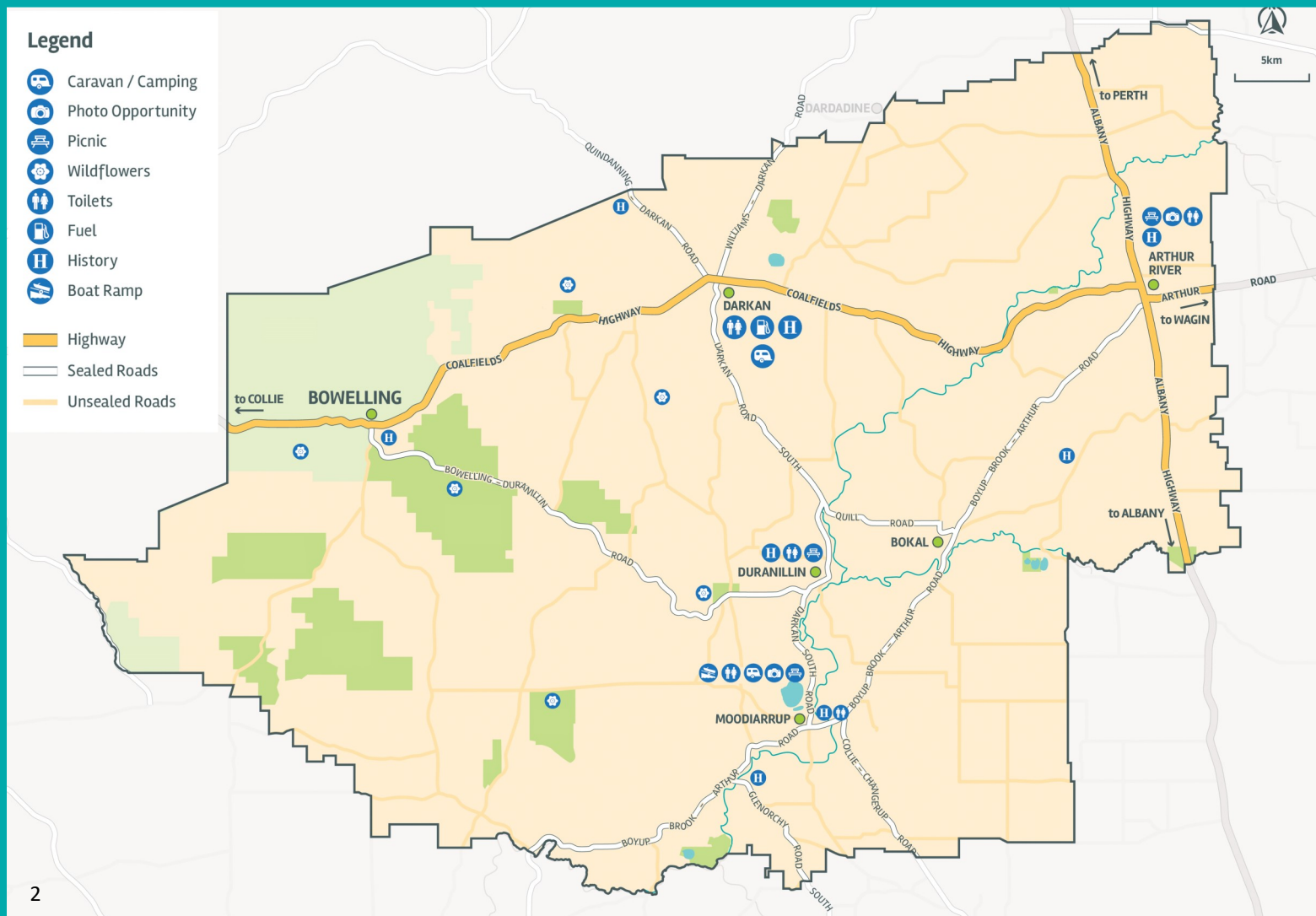
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Shire of West Arthur acknowledges the Wilman Noongar people as the traditional custodians of this land. We pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.



*Darkan is a local Noongar word meaning  
“camping place of spirits”*





# Welcome to West Arthur (and Darkan)

Welcome to the south western most Shire of the Wheatbelt. The main administrative town is Darkan however there are a number of smaller communities scattered throughout the Shire (Duranillin, Arthur River and Moodiarrup).

The first people in the area were the Wilman Noongar people who travelled nomadically through the area as they followed food and water.

The Darkan Rock was the place where the spirits of unborn babies camped and the word Darkan translated as the “camping place of spirits”

Did you know....

- ★ Albany Highway was where settlement first occurred in the shire. Arthur River was established as a police station and resting place for weary travelers on the route to Albany.
- ★ Australian Records in Ultra series trail running were set by Margie Hadley and Phil Gore at Birdy’s Backyard, at Lake Towerrinning in 2021. Phil ran for 51 hours clocking up a massive 342km.
- ★ There have been many innovative inventions that have been made in the district—the Harrington Crutching Cradle, raised board shearing shed and bugle sheep yards to name a few.





# West Arthur at a Glance

**Location:** 220km south of Perth and 120km east of Bunbury

**Population of West Arthur:** 800

**Population of Darkan:** 200

**Climate:** We experience cool summer nights, misty autumn mornings and warm spring days. Average summer temperatures range from a minimum of 14° and a maximum of 31°. Average winter temperatures range from a minimum of 6° and a maximum of 15°.

**Housing:** With plenty of space and blocks of land ready for release at a fraction of the cost of those in more populated areas, there is plenty of opportunity to build.

**Education:** The community is well suited to young families with a day care facility, toy library, playgroup all operating out of a purpose built Early Learning Centre. The local primary school caters for Kindergarten to Year 6. Bus services to larger centres such as Collie and Wagin provide high school students with a choice of schools.

**Industry:** Our main industry is agriculture and businesses that support agriculture. Traditionally a wool producing region, primary producers have moved into grain and meat production in more recent years with most operating mixed farming enterprises. There is a wide range of opportunities for diversification and the development of businesses that support the farming industry and local community.

**Retail/commercial:** The quaint main street hosts a small grocery store, post office, hairdresser, café, mechanic and hardware/farm supply store. Twenty four hour fuel is available in the industrial area and the Darkan Hotel provides a place to retreat after work.

**Community:** The Community Resource Centre provides many activities including, book clubs, art course, and craft. With plenty of opportunities to volunteer it is easy to quickly become part of the community.







## Sport and facilities

The recently developed Darkan Sport and Community Centre provides basketball courts, tennis courts, and a synthetic bowling green for the local community. It is located adjacent to the football oval and an 18 hole golf course.

There is also a sporting club at Moodiarrup with tennis courts, bowling green and a nine hole golf course. Arthur River Country Club is located closer to Albany Highway and has a golf course and tennis courts adjacent.

The Collie—Darkan Rail trail provides opportunities for walking, cycling or horse riding and Lake Towerrinning and the Arthur River offer a plethora of opportunities for water based activities.

A community swimming pool provides welcome relief during the summer months and a community gym is available 24 hours. A combined West Arthur/Wagin football team plays in the Upper Great Southern League. Skydiving is available at Hillman.

There is a rifle club , dart club and The Shed for those that want something less sporty.

## Health and Aged Care

New Independent Living Units provide housing for those wishing to retire in Darkan. The West Arthur Community Resource Centre hosts a doctor, nurse, podiatrist, chiropractor blood tests and child health care nurse on various days of the week. Hospital services are available in neighbouring towns, Collie and Narrogin and home care packages and in home respite is available. Senior's meals are available to purchase on Thursdays.





# Business and Investment

**Agriculture is our main industry, however there are ample opportunities for new businesses in the region.**

With industrial blocks available through Landcorp, there is plenty of opportunity for trade or manufacturing businesses to establish themselves in the industrial area in Darkan. The Shire will support any new businesses with assistance in the construction of sheds to suit the business and very generous “lease with options to buy” arrangements. If this is something that will help you get your new business up and going come and talk to the Shire about the opportunities available.

There are also opportunities in downstream processing of agricultural produce and diversification within the agriculture industry. Niche businesses could include native foods, grape growing or other high intensity food production or even the native flower industry.

Aquaculture is another area that could be explored.

Tourism industry is still in its infancy in West Arthur. As a member of the Astrotowns network, the Shire provides the perfect location for those that have a vision to enter this exciting developing tourism space. Adventure style tourism on the rail trail, river and lake or Astrotourism provide opportunities for tour leaders or equipment hire businesses.

Those in the service industry have plenty of opportunity to open a café or food business. With plenty of retail space available, there is an opportunity for gift shops or other retail stores with both a store front or online presence.







Our location close to Perth, Bunbury and Albany means that any business establishing itself has access to a myriad of opportunities in these regional centres as well as easy access to the Southern Wheatbelt, South West, Great Southern and Peel regions.

The Wheatbelt Development Commission is a statutory body that supports businesses and development of regional communities, through the Regional Economic Development Grant Scheme. The grants enable start up businesses and those looking to expand their operations to continue development and assist local communities to generate jobs. Entrepreneurs are encouraged to apply for these grants and can contact the Shire for assistance.

Office space is available at the local West Arthur Community Resource Centre (CRC) for those looking to start a new business.

The CRC can also offer various training programs. Facilities are also available to assist with printing, internet and other services that may be required when initially establishing a business.







## *A great place to live*

Darkan and its rural surrounds provide the perfect place to retreat from the hustle and bustle. A rural life style with a strong community make this area a great place to live.

The safe, inclusive community provides an idyllic location to raise a family, start a business or retire in, without the expenses of larger centres.

There are large blocks available in town from Landcorp and the Shire has other residential blocks ready to release when required.

Recently developed facilities in the centre of town cater for the young at heart with a new pump track, basketball court and large open area.

## *A nice place to work*

There are many job opportunities in Darkan. The agriculture sector offers opportunities for those wanting to work with livestock, large machinery or in the shearing industry. Farming support industries also provide jobs for many residents.

Two high class engineering companies located in Darkan offer many prospects for those looking for a career in the manufacturing and engineering industry.

The local Shire, School, Community Resource Centre and Day Care facilities offer employment opportunities in administrative and public service areas.

The tourism and service sector also have openings for those that are interested.







## *On our doorstep*

It is easy to retreat to the peace and quiet with a 65km rail trail which stretches from Dardadine in the east, through Darkan and to Buckingham in the West.

Lake Towerrinning is the jewel in our crown. With, swimming, water sports, picnics, camping and brand new playground available, there is something for everyone.

The Arthur river extends through the Shire before joining up with the Blackwood River. There are many places where you can put in a kayak and explore the water way.







*Slow down and connect with a rural community*



*Contact us here for more information*

**Shire of West Arthur**

[www.westarthur.wa.gov.au](http://www.westarthur.wa.gov.au) or 9736 2222

**Wheatbelt Development Commissions**

[www.wheatbelt.wa.gov.au](http://www.wheatbelt.wa.gov.au) 9881 5888

**West Arthur Community Resource Centre**

[www.westarthurcrc.net.au](http://www.westarthurcrc.net.au) or 9736 2000