



COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY:

SCOUTS AND GIRL GUIDES FACILITIES



CITY OF CANNING



SCOUTS AND GIRL GUIDES FACILITIES

Scouts, Girl Guides, and similar groups (such as Navy Cadets), are youth organisations with similar goals. They aim to help young people develop important life skills, values, and social connections that enable them to make a positive impact on their community.

These groups use a number of spaces and facilities across the City that range in size and function. They are typically standalone, single-use buildings with long-standing tenancy arrangements and generally provide a meeting space, office, kitchen and storage space. All of the facilities are located on or adjacent to open space to facilitate outdoor activities.



CURRENT DELIVERY

The City currently provides five Scouts and Girl Guide facilities, with a total floor space of 2032m². These facilities include:

These facilities include five standalone Scouts and Girl Guides facilities, housing eight separate groups, and one Navy Cadets facility.

In addition, Rossmoyne Community Hall is regularly hired for use by three Girl Guides and Scouts groups.

City of Canning Scouts, Girl Guides and Navy Cadets Facilities

| Facility | Hierarchy | Components | Strength | Weakness |
|---|---------------|--|--|--|
| Whaleback Guide Hall, Whaleback Golf Course (Built in 1981) | Neighbourhood | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hall, Office, 2 Toilets, Shower, Full Kitchen, Storeroom, Camping Area. Gross Floor Area 201m² | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exclusive use to Guides Large Site | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located within a golf course (risk/hazard of stray golf balls) Lack of storage Poor condition Limited parking Exclusive use Low utilisation |
| Ferndale Scout Hall, Ferndale Reserve (Built in 1987) | Neighbourhood | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main Hall, Kitchen facilities, 4 storage areas, Office room Gross Floor Area 391m² | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ample Parking Access to 3 reserves, small playground, located near small shopping centre, exclusive use | Toilet/shower facilities are dated and the club has requested additional storage for large items (e.g., canoe trailer) |



| Facility | Hierarchy | Components | Strength | Weakness |
|--|---------------|--|--|---|
| Canning Sea Scout Hall / Wilson Scout Hall, Centenary Park (Built in 1987) | Neighbourhood | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gross Floor Area 236m² | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to public open space On the river Formal direct access to river | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access issues due to sludge in river, Club utilise Scout Water Activity Centre - Como (City of South Perth), Location is considered unsafe due to site constraints |
| Willetton Guide/ Scout Hall, Willetton Reserve (Built in 1992) | Neighbourhood | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 individual spaces within one facility. Dividing Halls (Scouts/Guides) with a common area. Gross Floor Area 627m² | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ample Parking, Access to 2 reserves Close by to shops, public toilets and a playground | Exclusive Use, multiple reserve users to consider when using the space |
| T.S. Canning Australian Navy Cadets Adjacent to Canning Sea Scouts (Built in 1987) | Neighbourhood | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two Story Building, 2 Kitchens, Big Storeroom Gross Floor Area 568m² | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct water access | Building in poor condition, restricted river access. |

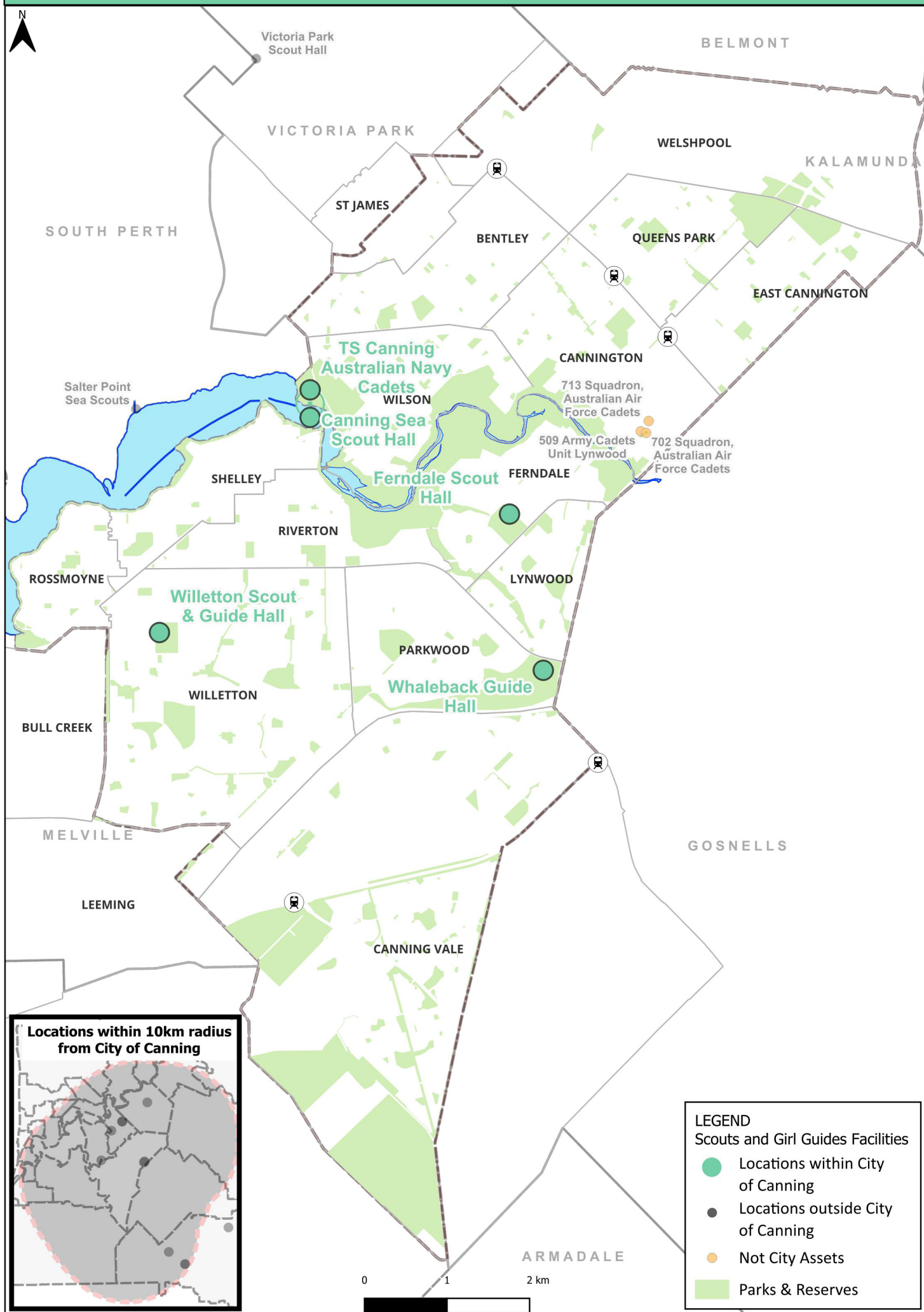
The existing Scouts and Girl Guides facilities within the City all have access to open space. This is a high priority for the groups as it supports their outdoor programming used to develop practical skills individually or as a team.

The current condition of these facilities is varied, with some requiring major investment in the coming years. Most facilities are not universally accessible and are non-compliant with current statutory requirements.

Many of the Scouts and Girl Guides facilities also have low visual presence and are not well integrated into the broader community, which can negatively impact safety and utilisation and impact on the community's knowledge of their existence, thus adding to the difficulties in attracting new members.

Most of the City's current Girl Guides and Scouts facilities are under a lease arrangement, with each group responsible for tenancy obligations and maintenance. However, the City is responsible for asset renewal.





CASE STUDIES



FERNDALE SCOUTS HALL

The Riverton Scouts Group, located at Ferndale Park, Ferndale is a vibrant and active community organisation dedicated to fostering the development of young people. The group provides a variety of programs and activities aimed at building essential life skills, promoting teamwork, and encouraging outdoor adventures.

Members of the Riverton Scouts participate in camping, hiking, and other outdoor pursuits that teach self-reliance and environmental stewardship. The group is committed to inclusivity, ensuring that all youth, regardless of background, have the opportunity to engage in its enriching activities. With a focus on personal growth, leadership, and community service, the Riverton Scouts Group at Ferndale Park plays an important role in the local community, helping to shape the leaders of tomorrow. The facility includes a large hall, kitchen and storage, a toilet/shower facilities.



WILLETTON SCOUTS AND GUIDES HALL

The Willetton Scouts and Guides Hall, located on Willetton Reserve, is home to multiple scouts and guides groups currently with one scouts group and two girl guides groups using the facility, providing a dedicated space for their various activities and programs. The hall is equipped to host a wide range of events, from regular meetings to special ceremonies and training sessions.

The facility has two dedicated spaces with a common area. The Willetton Scouts and Guides Hall is a cornerstone of the local community, fostering a sense of belonging and providing a safe and supportive environment for young people to learn, grow, and make lifelong friendships. The collaboration between the Scouts and Guides ensures a diverse range of programs that cater to the interests and needs of all members.

INDUSTRY PROVISION RATES AND BENCHMARKING

Unlike most other community facilities there are no current standards provisions or population guidelines to assist with planning of Scouts and Girl Guides facilities.

Although Parks and Leisure Australia, Western Australia (PLA WA) guidelines don't provide direct guidance for the provision of Girl Guides and Scouts halls, there are some correlations with community and youth centres, with the trend for these to be designed as part of an integrated service offering within a community hub, rather than standalone facilities.

There is also additional provision of Scouts and Girl Guides facilities by other nearby Local Government Authorities (LGAs), as outlined below.

Scouts and Girl Guides Facilities outside of the City of Canning

| Local Government Authority | Scouts | Girl Guides |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| City of Armadale | Armadale Scout Hall Karragullen Hall Westfield Scout Hall | Armadale Guides Hall Kanyana Guides and Brownie Hall (Roleystone Guides) |
| Town of Victoria Park | Carlisle Scouts Hall Victoria Park Scout Hall | Carlisle Comets Guides Hall Carlisle Starlight Guides Hall |
| City of Belmont | No Provision, demolished in 2005 | No stand alone Provision, demolished in 2005 and captured as part of Redcliffe Community Centre |
| South Perth | 1 facility | Salter Point Sea Scouts |
| City of Gosnells | No standalone provision | No standalone provision |
| City of Melville | Willagee Kardinya Scout Hall Attadale Scout Hall Waylen Bay Sea Scouts 1st Bateman Winthrop Scouts Bull Creek Leeming Scout Hall | Meville Girl Guides Hall |

Based on the number of scout facilities within Canning (5 standalone facilities), with a total floor space of 2032m² (equating to 21m² per 1000 residents for Girl Guide and Scouts Hall floor space), the low membership rates across all scout and girl guide groups, coupled with the provision of neighbouring suburbs, the City's current provision is more than adequate, and could be considered in line with/or above compared to neighbouring LGA's.

TRENDS

There are a number of trends to consider for Scouts and Girl Guides facilities, including:

Increased partnerships being created with local organisations. In Western Australia, many Scouts groups have established collaborations with schools, community groups, and businesses to offer members enhanced resources and opportunities. This approach is reflected in their Strategic Plans that indicate a growing emphasis on community engagement and collaboration.

The expected rise in the number of young people aged 5-25 years in the City of Canning to 6,231 by 2041. This demonstrates a need to carefully consider investing in facilities and services for them to utilise.

Scouts and Girl Guides continuing to work on improving their profile and showcasing themselves as a contemporary movement with empowered youth. This involves initiatives such as updating branding, using social media and other digital channels to connect with youth, while offering programs and activities that reflect modern interests and values. By adopting these strategies, Scouts and Girl Guides are aiming to remain relevant and appeal to a new generation of young people.

An emphasis on outdoor adventures and skill development, with activities such as camping, hiking, and survival skills within both groups.

An increase in Girl Guides membership in WA between 2017 to 2019, from 2,522 to 2,633.

Scouts providing access for everyone. Since the late 1980s, Scouts has included males and females. Scouts Australia has a policy of co-education in all sections and is characterised by equal opportunity, mutual acceptance, understanding, and respect.

Girl Guides providing a female-only environment that works to build the confidence and self-esteem of young girls.

Increasing pressure on available space and finances makes it more difficult to support standalone facilities. This is based on LGAs investing in capital and scheduled maintenance, with reactive maintenance becoming a less common and community hub models with co-located facilities and flexible spaces becoming the preferred option.



THE FUTURE

The City’s current provision is at or above neighbouring LGA’s with five standalone Scouts and Girl Guides facilities. The City considers the level of provision high and recommends consolidation of existing provision into the future.

With existing facilities nearing end of life and many in poor condition based on asset condition audits planning will be undertaken to provide options to co-locate groups and facilities at the end of existing asset life or lease term (which ever comes first), noting access challenges and underutilisation of existing sites.

Colocation of facilities will be with complimentary groups in spaces appropriately designed to meet the needs of scouts and guides and other groups. Benefits include reduced capex costs, maintenance costs, direct costs to groups currently under lease arrangements and to the City while increasing visibility and offering access to other facilities and services.

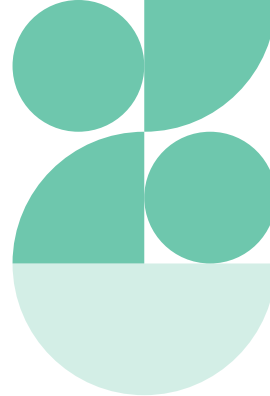
PROVISION STANDARDS

Given the limited industry standards and provision rates, any new Scouts and Girl Guides Facilities would be subject to a robust business case which would look to identify external funding opportunities.

Scouts and Guides Associations have indicated that, as a minimum, facilities would require the following amenities:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Hall | Proximity to open space |
| Basic kitchen | Accessible toilets |
| Meeting rooms | Covered outdoor space |
| Storage, internal and external | |





CONSULTATION FINDINGS

This Type received 71 responses, the highest number of the surveys. There are six strategic directions/ recommendations proposed: three were supported, and three were opposed.

| Summary of Consultation | |
|---|---|
| Survey Questions | Results |
| Surveys Completed | 71 |
| From a suburb within the City of Canning | 46 |
| Already using scouts/guides facilities | 63 |
| Addition consultation activities specific for this Type | Scouts WA Guides WA were offered a meeting Direct emails to groups with an offer of a meeting Cultural Ambassador Huddle Youth Consultants Network presentation |

Survey Response Results

| | Support | Neutral | Oppose |
|---|---------|---------|--------|
| Strategic Direction 1 - The City of Canning's provision is at or above neighbouring Local Government Authorities and no further provision is anticipated to meet population growth. | 8 | 10 | 53 |
| Strategic Direction 2 - The City's preference is to support the provision of existing facilities until the end of their tenancy arrangement, or end of asset life (whichever is first) and work towards co-location and consolidation. | 3 | 4 | 64 |
| Strategic Direction 3 - The City will not prioritise standalone, single group use, Scout and Girl Guides facilities. | 53 | 12 | 6 |
| Recommendation 1 - Review licenses, leases and agreements for existing Guides and Scouts groups to advocate for shared use where possible. | 43 | 7 | 21 |
| Recommendation 2 - Develop an accommodation plan to relocate scouts and guides groups to co-located facilities with priority determined by the remaining asset life of existing sites and tenancies. | 4 | 3 | 64 |
| Recommendation 3 - City to undertake a business case for the future provision of waterside activity infrastructure, including locations that maximise water entry and exit | 52 | 14 | 5 |

KEY THEMES

Facilities: Respondents were concerned about the potential closure of single use scouts halls. They emphasised that dedicated scout and guide halls provide a sense of identity, belonging, and security for their members.

The importance of waterfront activities and access for the Sea Scouts was identified.

Comparative Analysis: Several comments sought a comparison of the City of Canning with the City of Melville, given its similar size and demographic profile.

Respondents identified changes in operating locations that occurred whilst the document was in draft, such as changes to the operation of whaleback scouts.

Community Impact: Many comments highlighted the valuable role that scouts and guides provide invaluable life skills, confidence-building activities, and strong social connections. They emphasise that these groups offer opportunities for children who don't fit into traditional sports.

Storage: The need for large and good storage was a common theme throughout the feedback.

Scouts WA are broadly supportive of the need for shared infrastructure and maximising use of Scouts facilities through enabling other user groups to utilise Scouts spaces, such as the recently opened Carramar facility which is open for bookings by other community groups. They acknowledged issues pertaining to the ageing infrastructure of many Scout facilities, and noted that the City is not alone in this context. Scouts WA also noted their role in working with the City to ensure fit-for-purpose Scouts infrastructure as the primary lease holder for local Scouts Groups.

KEY FINDINGS

It is acknowledged, that there have been changes to the number and locations of Scouts Groups in Canning during the development of the CIS. To reflect these changes this document has been updated accordingly.

A number of factors external to the CIS may have influenced community feedback on this Type, including changes to use at Whaleback Golf Course, asset condition information and other land use matters which have and will influence tenure arrangements at a small number of sites. The City has (and continues to) liaise with Scouts WA and local group leaders on both factors prior to the CIS going out for community consultation and are not impacted by the recommendations contained within the CIS.

Terminology clarification: It has been identified that some of the terminology used within the document has been misunderstood. To improve clarity, a revision has been made to refine the language concerning "co-location/shared use." The updated terminology, "Co-locating complementary groups in spaces appropriately designed to meet the needs of scouts, guides, and other groups," aims to provide greater clarity.

CONSULTATION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The documents have been updated to:
 - a. Accurately reflect the change that occurred during consultation
 - b. The documents have been updated to include the City of Melville and City of Gosnells.
2. That recommendation 2 be updated with provisions shared use/colocation.
 - Language refined.
 - FROM: Develop an accommodation plan to relocate scouts and guides groups to co-located facilities with priority determined by the remaining asset life of existing sites and tenancies.
 - TO: Develop an accommodation plan to relocate scouts and guides groups to co-located facilities with priority determined by the remaining asset life of existing sites. Scouts and Guides to be co-located with complimentary groups in spaces appropriately designed to meet the needs of scouts, guides, and other groups.



STRATEGIC DIRECTION



The City of Canning's provision is at or above neighbouring Local Government Authorities and no further provision is anticipated to meet population growth.



The City's preference is to support the provision of existing facilities until end of asset life and to work with Scouts WA towards co-location and consolidation as appropriate.



The City will not prioritise standalone, single group use, Scout and Girl Guides facilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS



Review licenses, leases and agreements for existing Guides and Scouts groups to advocate for shared use where possible.



Develop an accommodation plan to locate scouts and guides groups in co-located facilities with priority determined by the remaining asset life of existing sites. Scouts and Guides to be co-located with complimentary groups in spaces appropriately designed to meet the needs of scouts, guides, and other groups.



City to undertake a business case for the future provision of waterside activity infrastructure, including locations that maximise water entry and exit.



