



SHIRE OF YORK

Appendix 7: Demographics of the Town

Overview

The Shire of York is a Local Government Area in the Wheatbelt region of Western Australia - one of the major wheat producing areas in Australia. The Shire of York covers an area of 2,131km², and is bounded by the Shires of Northam and Cunderdin to the north and northeast respectively, Quairading to the east, Beverley to the south, and Mundaring and Kalamunda to the west (see Figure 2). The climate is Mediterranean with warm to hot, dry summers and mild wet winters.

Figure 2: Location of York



Population

The Shire, with the town sites of York, Gwambygine, Mount Hardey, Greenhills and Karing had a total resident population of 3,606 in 2016¹, reflecting a modest increase of 210 residents (6.18%) since the 2011 census (see table 1). The male:female ratio is approximately 50:50. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make up approximately 3.1% of the total population (ABS, 2016).

Table 1: Shire of York – ABS Census Population 2006 and 2011, and 2016

	2006 Census		2011 Census		2016 Census	
	York	WA	York	WA	York	WA
Total Population	3,116	1,959,088	3,396	2,239,170	3,606	2,474,410

Source: ABS Census 2006, 2011 and 2016

The population was forecast to be 4,260 in 2026 in the Western Australia Tomorrow highest growth scenario². However, while the 2016 census saw the Shire growing at close to the top end

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2016 Census

² Western Australia Tomorrow: Population Report No. 10, 2016 to 2026 – Forecast Profile

of the forecast, the projections have since been revised downwards³, to indicate minor population growth by 2031 (in the absence of interventions).

The age profile is older for the Shire than for WA. 44.3% of the population is aged over 55 years (25.4% for WA). The median age is higher at 51 years (36 for WA). Correspondingly, there are gaps in the 15-34 year age groups, which comprise 15.2% of the Shire's population (28% for WA). Residents leaving in search of tertiary education and employment opportunities is a key factor.

Economy

Agriculture (cropping and grazing) is the cornerstone of the Shire's economy, being the dominant industry by value and employment, with 136,100ha of agricultural land holdings generating approximately \$46.2M in production value per year. Cereal crops (particularly wheat) are the most prevalent and valuable to the economy, followed by wool production.

Tourism also plays an important economic role, with over 170,000 visitors per year. Aboriginal and built heritage contributes to York's unique history and identity. York was the first inland settlement in WA and is one of the best examples of a historic town in Australia. The town has 34 heritage listed sites on the State register and is recognised by the National Trust as a Historic Town. This is a unique and significant competitive advantage.

The daytrip market dominates tourism activity (79%), reflecting the town of York's proximity to Perth (97kms). Other key assets to York's tourism market potential include adventure, natural amenity and festivals.

The unemployment rate for the Shire was 5.9% in 2016, a slight rise from 2011 (following a ten year period of decline), but below the WA average of 7.8% (ABS, 2016).

HOME OWNERSHIP AND HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Home ownership is relatively high in the Shire. 44.7% of homes are owned outright, compared to the WA state average of 28.5%. Conversely, the Shire has lower percentages of homeowners with a mortgage (30.8%) and people renting (20.3%) when compared to WA averages (39.7% and 28.3% respectively) (ABS, 2016). On the other hand, median weekly household income is lower in the Shire (\$1,024) than the WA average (\$1,595), reflecting, in part, the age profile of the Shire (ABS, 2016).

³ Western Australia Tomorrow: Population Report No. 11, 2016 to 2031 – Forecast Profile

