



shire of Ashburton
opportunity to community

A close-up photograph of a young child with light brown hair and a white floral headband. An adult's hands are visible, one holding the child's head and the other using a paintbrush to apply colorful face paint (red, green, and white) to the child's forehead. The child is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is softly blurred, showing a red textured surface and a person with a blue headband.

inspire

COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP

2024/2025 Report



acknowledgement

of Country

The Shire of Ashburton acknowledges all native title holders throughout the Shire.

We respect and honour the Traditional Owners, Custodians, native land titles, and Elders past, present and future.

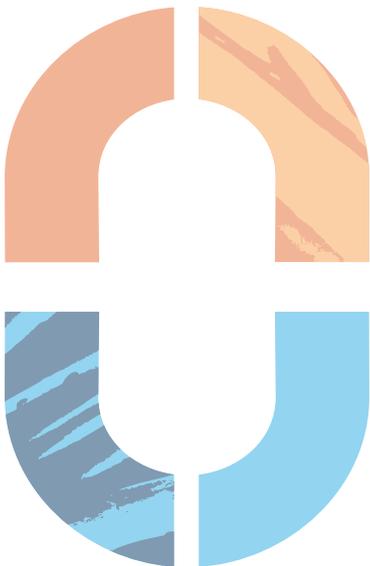
The land comprising the Shire of Ashburton has been home to First Nations people for millennia. Sustained by bonds of kinship, language, culture and connection to the land, the local Aboriginal people have demonstrated autonomy and innovation in adapting to a harsh environment.

We recognise the richness of their culture and the responsibility of all Australians to respect Aboriginal heritage.

We acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of Aboriginal peoples on this land and commit to building a brighter future together.

Contents

A message from the Director of Community Development and Manager of Communities	4
Executive Summary	5
Key Achievements	6
Key Learnings	8
Community Projects	10
Programs & Events	12
Community Participation	14
Summary of Financial Activity	15
Looking Ahead to 2025 – 2026	19





a message from

The Director of Community Development and Manager of Communities

As we reflect on the achievements of the 2024/2025 financial year, we are proud to present this annual report on behalf of the Inspire Community Partnership. This year has been a testament to the power of collaboration between the Shire of Ashburton and Rio Tinto, and to the dedication of our communities across Tom Price, Paraburdoo, and Pannawonica.

The progress made, whether through the completion of the Paraburdoo Bike Park, the launch of new youth initiatives, or the commencement of major infrastructure upgrades demonstrates what is possible when we work together with a shared vision. Our focus on inclusive, community-led programming and transparent governance has ensured that every project, program and event is aligned with the needs and aspirations of our residents.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Inspire Tactical Advisory Team (TAT), the Senior

Leadership Team (SLT), our community partners, volunteers, and all those who have contributed their time, expertise, and passion. Your commitment has been instrumental in delivering outcomes that strengthen community resilience, foster belonging, and enhance the liveability of our towns.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to building on these foundations, continuing to listen, adapt, and invest in projects and programs that create lasting value for our communities. Together, we will ensure that the Inspire Community Partnership continues to thrive and deliver meaningful impact for years to come.

Chantelle McGurk

Director Community Development

Tina Taylor

Manager Communities



executive summary

The 2024/2025 Financial Year marks another significant chapter in the Inspire Community Partnership between the Shire of Ashburton and Rio Tinto. Building on the momentum of previous years, this partnership continues to deliver meaningful outcomes across Tom Price, Paraburdoo, and Pannawonica, strengthening community resilience, enhancing liveability, and fostering a deeper sense of belonging, connection, and inclusiveness.

This year's achievements include the completion of major infrastructure projects such as the Paraburdoo Bike Park, the commencement of the Pannawonica Bike Park, and the start of lighting upgrades at Clem Thompson and Peter Sutherland Ovals. The partnership also delivered a diverse calendar of programs and events, co-designed with local stakeholders and youth groups, that empowered young people, celebrated cultural diversity, and built local capacity through workshops and leadership initiatives.

With a continued focus on collaboration, transparency, and impact, the Inspire Tactical Advisory Team (TAT) and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) have worked closely to ensure that every initiative aligns with broader goals of community development and sustainable growth. The development of the Inspire Community Partnership Project Pipeline, delivery of the Youth Services Pilot Project in Pannawonica,

and endorsement of multiple business cases for future investment are just some examples of this strategic approach.

As we reflect on the achievements of 2024/2025, this report also acknowledges the contributions of our community partners, volunteers, and stakeholders whose support has been instrumental in bringing these initiatives to life. Financially, Inspire managed a total available expenditure of \$10.2 million, with significant investments in both operational programs and capital projects. The partnership's robust governance framework, equal input from both parties, and consensus-based decision-making have ensured accountability, transparency, and strategic alignment throughout the year.

The following pages provide a comprehensive overview of financial expenditure, program outcomes, key learnings, and future priorities—demonstrating our shared commitment to building vibrant, inclusive communities across the Shire of Ashburton. Looking ahead, the Inspire Community Projects Pipeline will undergo formal review in early 2026, with a continued focus on delivering high-impact, community-led infrastructure and programs. The partnership remains committed to inclusive growth, transparent governance, and building vibrant, resilient communities across the Shire.



Key achievements

Tactical Team (TAT) & Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

The 2024/2025 financial year saw the Inspire Tactical Advisory Team (TAT) and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) deliver significant strategic and operational outcomes that strengthened the governance, planning, and delivery of Inspire-funded initiatives across Tom Price, Paraburdoo, and Pannawonica.

1. Development of the Inspire Community Partnership Project Pipeline

One of the most impactful achievements was the collaborative development of the Inspire Community Partnership Project Pipeline, led by TAT members and endorsed by SLT. This pipeline provides a structured, forward-looking framework for identifying, prioritising, and resourcing community projects and events over the next decade. It ensures alignment with the Shire and Rio Tinto strategic objectives and community needs, and supports transparent decision-making and budget forecasting.

2. Delivery of the Youth Services Pilot Project in Pannawonica

TAT successfully scoped, resourced, and delivered the Youth Services Pilot Project in Pannawonica, which introduced targeted youth engagement programs, leadership development opportunities, and creative initiatives. This pilot was a direct response to community feedback and demonstrated the value of agile, locally informed planning.



3. Endorsement of Multiple Business Cases

Throughout the year, TAT and SLT jointly reviewed and endorsed a series of Project Business Cases, including:

- Pannawonica Bike Park, Destination Playground and Sports Club Outdoor Decking Upgrade
- Clem Thompson and Peter Sutherland Oval Lighting Upgrades
- Inspire Festival
- Pannawonica Youth Centre Art Project

These approvals reflect a robust governance process that balances strategic vision with community impact.

4. Informed Decision Making

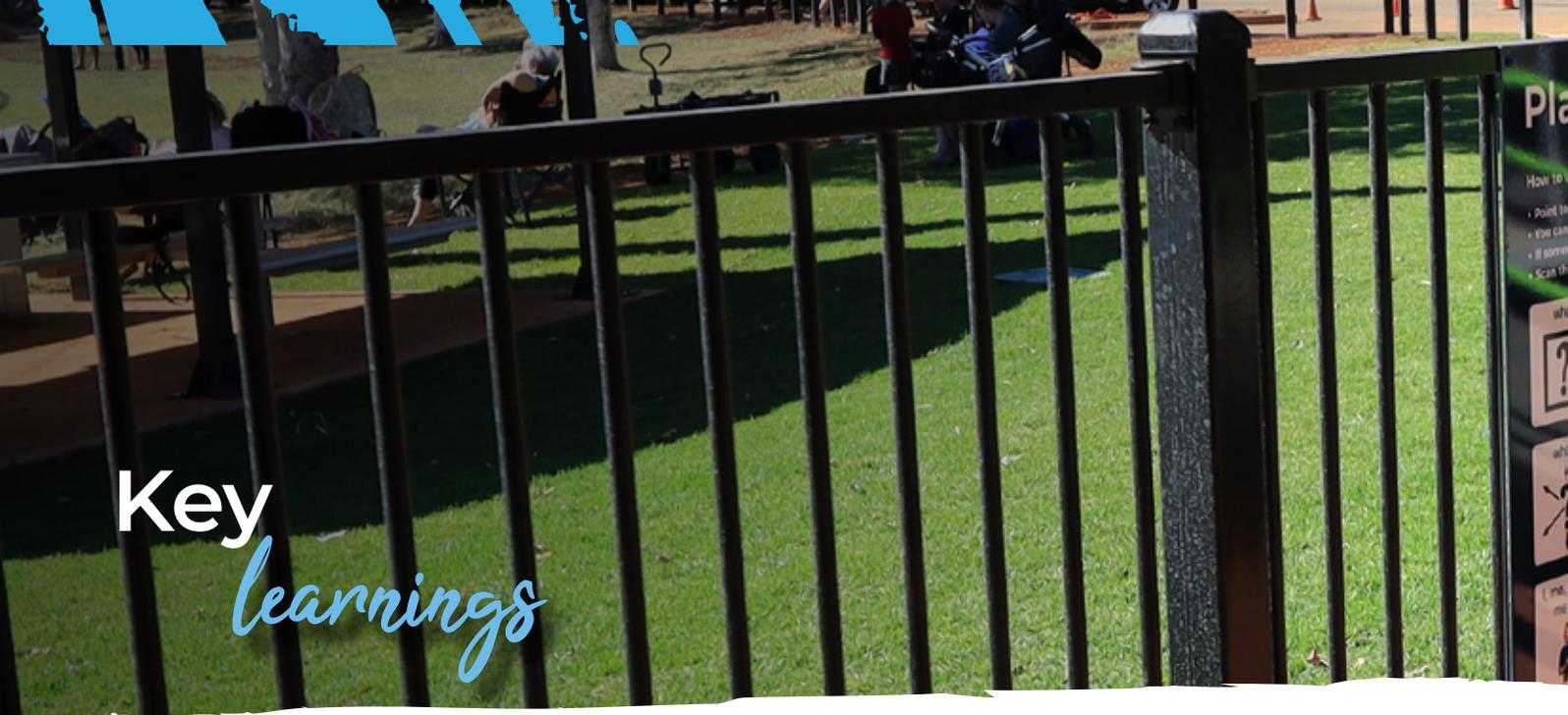
The continued refinement of the feedback loop between the planning and delivery of Inspire funded community programs and events through structured reporting to TAT, including attendance statistics, community feedback and stakeholder involvement, provided transparent and actionable data. This process enabled informed decision making, ensured accountability, and supported continuous improvement across all towns. The integration of community voice into the planning of programs and events further strengthened the partnership's responsiveness and alignment with local needs and aspirations.

5. Governance and Equal Partnership

The governance model underpinning Inspire continues to be a standout feature. Both TAT and SLT operate under a shared governance framework, as outlined in the Inspire Community Partnership Agreement Terms of Reference. This model ensures:

- Equal input from the Shire of Ashburton and Rio Tinto
- Consensus-based decision-making
- Transparency in budget allocation and project delivery
- Accountability through regular reporting and review cycles

This collaborative approach has fostered trust, improved responsiveness, and ensured that Inspire remains community-led and strategically aligned.



Key *learnings*

The 2024/2025 financial year has been a period of growth, innovation, and reflection for the Inspire Community Partnership. Through the delivery of diverse programs and events across Tom Price, Paraburdoo, and Pannawonica, the Shire of Ashburton has gained valuable insights into what drives meaningful community engagement, strengthens local capacity, and supports inclusive development. These key learnings not only highlight the successes of the past year but also inform future planning, ensuring that Inspire continues to evolve in alignment with strategic priorities and the needs of its communities.

1. Youth Engagement Drives Connection and Leadership

Youth-focused initiatives such as the AY! branding suite, Youth Pride events, and career pathway workshops across all towns demonstrated that co-designed programs foster stronger youth participation, leadership, and community connection. The success of these programs validates the Shire's Youth Strategy and highlights the importance of safe, inclusive spaces for young people to thrive.

2. Community-Led Planning Enhances Relevance and Impact

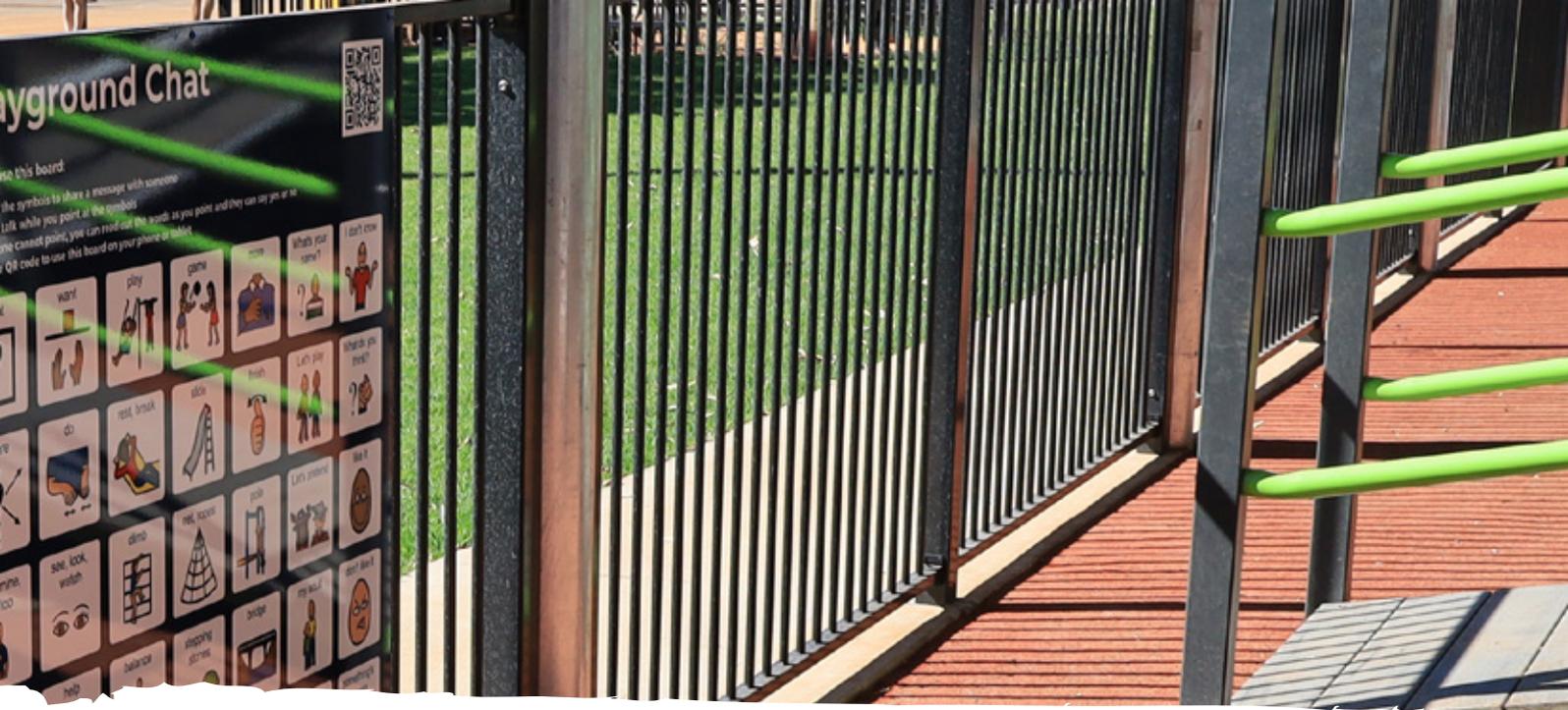
Programs that were co-designed with local stakeholders, including Aboriginal organisations, youth centres, and community clubs resulted in higher engagement and satisfaction. This approach ensured that events were culturally relevant, accessible, and aligned with local priorities, reinforcing the value of community ownership in planning and delivery.

3. Strategic Partnerships Strengthen Delivery

Collaboration with Rio Tinto, local businesses, and regional organisations enabled the delivery of large-scale infrastructure projects and signature events. These partnerships provided additional resources, expertise, and visibility, helping to meet strategic goals outlined in the Community Strategic Plan and Community Lifestyle Plan.

4. Inclusive Design Improves Accessibility

Programs and Events were designed with access and inclusion in mind, including venue selection,



online delivery options, and targeted outreach. This reflects progress against the Shire's Access & Inclusion Plan and demonstrates a growing commitment to access and inclusion across all programs.

5. Feedback Loops and Communication Are Critical

The use of post-event reports, stakeholder feedback, and community surveys helped refine programming throughout the year. Clear communication, especially around event objectives and outcomes was essential for maintaining transparency and trust. This learning supports the continued development of responsive and adaptive programming.

6. Infrastructure Activation Builds Civic Pride

The opening of new infrastructure like the Paraburdoo Bike Park, create opportunities for community celebration and activation. These projects not only improve town amenity but also serve as focal points for events, recreation, and social connection.

7. Club Development Strengthens Local Capacity

Workshops in finance, governance, and marketing empowered local clubs and groups to manage their operations more effectively. This investment in capacity building supports long-term sustainability and aligns with the Shire's strategic goals for community resilience.

8. Strong Governance and Leadership Relationships Enable Strategic Delivery

The continued collaboration between the Inspire Tactical Advisory Team (TAT) and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) has proven essential in maintaining clear governance, accountability, and strategic alignment. Regular meetings, transparent decision-making processes, and shared ownership of outcomes have strengthened trust and ensured that programs are delivered efficiently and in line with the Shire's strategic objectives. This reinforces the importance of structured governance frameworks and cross-functional leadership in sustaining long-term community impact.

Community projects

The 2024/2025 financial year saw significant progress in infrastructure delivery across the Shire of Ashburton, with Inspire funding supporting both the completion and commencement of key community assets. These projects reflect the partnership's commitment to enhancing liveability, promoting active lifestyles, and creating inclusive spaces for residents of all ages.

Completed Projects



Paraburdoo Bike Park

The Paraburdoo Bike Park was successfully completed and officially opened in early 2025. This vibrant new facility includes a pump track and learn-to-ride circuit, designed to encourage safe cycling skills, physical activity, and community connection. The opening event featured BMX demonstrations and was attended by local families, stakeholders, and youth, marking a major milestone in infrastructure activation for the town.

Projects Commenced in 2024/2025



Clem Thompson Oval Lighting Upgrade (Tom Price)

Works commenced on upgrading the lighting infrastructure at Clem Thompson Oval, enhancing safety and usability for evening sports and community events. This project is due for completion in Q4 of 2025.

Peter Sutherland Oval Lighting Upgrade (Paraburdoo)

Lighting upgrades at Peter Sutherland Oval began in 2025, with improved visibility and energy-efficient systems planned to support increased community use. Completion is expected in Q4 of 2025.



Pannawonica Bike Park



Construction began on the Pannawonica Bike Park, which will mirror the success of Paraburdoo’s facility by including a pump track and learn-to-ride circuit. This project is designed to activate underutilised space and provide a safe, engaging environment for youth and families. Completion is anticipated in Q4 of 2025.

Minna Oval Sports Club

While not directly funded under the Inspire Community Partnership Agreement, the Minna Oval Sports Club represents a significant collaborative achievement between the Shire of Ashburton and Rio Tinto. The project was initiated in the 2024/2025 financial year to address the growing demand for rectangular field sports and alleviate pressure on existing facilities like Clem Thompson Oval. With a total project value of \$15 million, including a \$10 million commitment from Rio Tinto, the development includes a new club house, upgraded playing surfaces, and supporting infrastructure. Construction started during the reporting period, with practical completion reached in September 2025 and the official opening taking place in November 2025. This project aligns with the Shire’s Community Infrastructure and Lifestyle Plan (CLIP) and demonstrates the strength of strategic partnerships in delivering high impact community infrastructure.





Programs & events

The 2024/2025 financial year marked a transformative period for the Inspire Community Partnership, with impactful programs and events delivered across Tom Price, Paraburdoo, and Pannawonica. Through strategic collaboration between the Shire of Ashburton and Rio Tinto, the partnership continued to empower local communities, enhance liveability, and foster inclusive engagement.

Across all towns, the Inspire funding enabled the delivery of over 80 community events and programs, reaching thousands of residents and visitors. These initiatives were co-designed with local stakeholders, youth groups, and community organisations, ensuring relevance, accessibility, and alignment with the Shire's strategic priorities.

Key themes included:

- **Youth Empowerment:** All towns delivered youth-led initiatives, including branding projects, career pathways, and Pride Month celebrations.
- **Infrastructure Activation:** Major milestones such as the opening of the Paraburdoo Bike Park and upgrades to lighting at key ovals in Tom Price and Pannawonica enhanced community spaces and safety.
- **Cultural Celebration:** Events like Reconciliation Week, Harmony Day, and Welcome to Town fostered cultural awareness and civic pride.
- **Capacity Building:** Workshops in finance, marketing, and entrepreneurship supported local clubs and emerging leaders.

These achievements directly support the Shire's Community Strategic Plan, Corporate Business Plan the My Pilbara Home suite of strategies, demonstrating a shared commitment to building vibrant, resilient, and inclusive communities.

Paraburdoo

Paraburdoo focused on civic pride, cultural celebration, and infrastructure activation. The town's events were co-led with community groups, enhancing ownership and engagement.

Key Achievements

ANZAC Day

- Over 450 attendees, live bagpipes, and community-led delivery.

Community Showcase

- Harmony Day-themed event with 400+ attendees, Brazilian dancers, and market stalls.
- Paraburdoo Bike Park Opening:
- BMX demos, stakeholder recognition, and youth-focused activities.

Youth Activation

- Youth Week, Pride Month, and career pathway sessions with strong youth participation.

Strategic Alignment

- **Youth Strategy:** Facilitated intertown youth engagement and leadership development.
- **Community Strategic Plan:** Delivered quality infrastructure and inclusive events.

Access & Inclusion Plan: Promoted accessible venues and inclusive community participation.



Pannawonica

Pannawonica demonstrated innovation and inclusivity through its youth programs, club development workshops, and pioneering Pride Month event. The town achieved record engagement and strengthened community networks.

Key Achievements

Youth Services Pilot Project

- Entrepreneurship workshops, logo design competition, and intertown engagement.

Welcome to Town

- Two events with record-breaking stallholder participation and over 500 attendees.

Pride Month Event

- First of its kind, with 100 guests celebrating inclusivity through drag performances and community collaboration.

Club Development

- Finance and marketing workshops with participation from multiple clubs.

Strategic Alignment

- **Youth Strategy:** Supported youth voice, leadership, and creative expression.
- **Community Strategic Plan:** Strengthened community pride and stakeholder collaboration.
- **Access & Inclusion Plan:** Ensured inclusive event design and delivery.

Tom Price

Tom Price delivered a diverse and inclusive calendar of events and programs, with a strong emphasis on youth engagement, environmental sustainability, and community connection. The town leveraged partnerships with Garduwarra Mia Youth Centre, local schools, and Aboriginal Ashburton Corporation to co-design impactful initiatives.

Key Achievements

Youth Engagement

- Jilya Tharndu Youth Week attracted over 150 youth.
- Launch of the AY! youth branding suite.
- Youth Pride event and Youth Activation Network established.

Community Showcase

- Over 800 attendees, 40+ stalls, live music, silent disco, and emergency services displays.

Environmental Education

- Hannah Moloney Permaculture Workshops engaged over 120 students and 50 community members.

Reconciliation Week

- Over 780 participants across two weeks of cultural activities, including workshops, music, and storytelling.

Strategic Alignment

- **Youth Strategy:** Empowered youth voice and leadership.
- **Community Strategic Plan:** Delivered vibrant, inclusive events and activated public spaces.
- **Access & Inclusion Plan:** Ensured accessible venues and inclusive programming

Community participation

Collaboration with Stakeholders

Town	Programs
Tom Price	22
Paraburdoo	13
Pannawonica	10

Community Participants

The approximate number of engagement opportunities across programs and events.

Town	Participants	Programs
Tom Price	5,500+	30
Paraburdoo	3,000	28
Pannawonica	2,600	21

Capacity Building Across 3 Towns

- 9 capacity building opportunities were offered through large scale programs and events in each town
- 4 workshops offered across each town to build capacity
- The number of Clubs and/or Groups that attended the following workshops:



Financial *activity*

The Inspire Community Partnership, administered by the Shire of Ashburton in accordance with the 2022-2032 agreement with Rio Tinto, continued to deliver impactful programs and infrastructure across the Shire during the 2024/2025 financial year.

Summary of Financial Activity

Opening Balance (Carried Forward from 2023/2024)	\$ 6,526,929.55
Funds Received in 2024/2025	\$ 3,700,000.00
Total Available for Expenditure	\$ 10,226,929.55
Total Expenditure	\$ 3,562,983.65
Closing Balance (Carried Forward to 2025/2026)	\$ 6,663,945.90

Expenditure – Community Programs and Events

Description	24/25 Expenditure	Budget
Pannawonica Programs & Events	\$ 221,842.80	\$ 280,000.00
Paraburdoo Programs & Events	\$ 222,618.57	\$ 300,084.00
Tom Price Programs & Events	\$ 254,229.25	\$ 385,000.00
Pannawonica Youth Services – Pilot Project*	\$ 116,200.00	\$ 239,400.00
Inspire Festival	\$ 229,225.00	\$229,225.00
	\$ 1,044,115.62	\$ 1,433,709.00

Programs & Events marked with an asterisk () carry over to the 2025-2026 Financial Year.

Expenditure – Community Projects

Description	24/25 Expenditure	Budget
Peter Sutherland Oval Lighting Upgrade*	\$ 188,499.48	\$ 2,000,000.00
Clem Thompson Oval Lighting Upgrade*	\$ 140,719.00	\$ 2,000,000.00
Pannawonica Bike/Pump Track*	\$ 7,447.86	\$ 3,200,000.00
Paraburdoo Bike/Pump Track	\$ 2,182,201.69	\$ 2,235,000.00
	\$ 2,518,868.03	\$ 9,435,000.00

Projects marked with an asterisk () carry over to the 2025-2026 Financial Year.

Detailed Program & Events Expenditure by Town

Pannawonica

Description	24/25 Expenditure
Anzac Day	\$3,259.42
Volunteer Events	\$10,109.63
Youth Activation Events	\$28,479.45
Club Development Activities	\$ 5,335.76
Environmental Initiatives	\$ 4,553.33
Australia Day	\$ 4,951.52
Term 1 Holiday Program	\$8,638.55
Term 2 Holiday Program	\$4,253.49
Term 3 Holiday Program	\$12,095.01
Summer Holiday Program	\$7,920.06
Community Showcase	\$102,145.46
Cultural Initiatives	\$11,480.91
NAIDOC Week	\$12,164.86
Reconciliation Week	\$842.62
Arts Initiatives	\$5,612.73
Youth Services Pilot Program	\$116,200.00
Internal Charges	\$ 0.00
	\$ 388,042.80

Tom Price

Description	24/25 Expenditure
Anzac Day	\$8,072.03
Environmental Events	\$12,932.07
Australia Day	\$3,997.96
Volunteer Event	\$11,860.06
Youth Activation Events	\$49,766.60
Club Development Activities	\$19,137.22
Term 1 Holiday Program	\$8,065.73
Term 2 Holiday Program	\$5,346.75
Term 3 Holiday Program	\$9,761.95
Summer Holiday Program	\$8,146.55
Community Showcase 1	\$60,371.87
Cultural Initiatives	\$26,910.77
NAIDOC Week	\$13,877.15
Reconciliation Week	\$11,401.87
Arts	\$47.67
Inspire Festival	\$229,225.00
Internal Charges	\$20,533.00
Income	
Other Collaboration Funding	-\$16,000
	\$ 483,454.25

Paraburdoo

Description	24/25 Expenditure
Anzac Day	\$3,132.24
Volunteer Events	\$8,002.20
Youth Activation Events	\$57,319.56
Club Development Activities	\$10,168.22
Environmental Initiatives	\$4,395.98
Australia Day	\$3,967.28
Term 1 Holiday Program	\$5,017.98
Term 2 Holiday Program	\$5,944.68
Term 3 Holiday Program	\$9,199.78
Summer Holiday Program	\$8,412.00
Community Showcase	\$62,854.09
Cultural Initiatives	\$11,594.06
Naidoc Week	\$8,756.58
Reconciliation Week	\$13,180.63
Arts Initiatives	\$2,932.29
Internal Charges	\$10,741.00
Income	
Other Collaboration Funding	-\$3,000.00
	\$ 222,618.57

Important to Note:

The expenditure for Programs and Events in Tom Price and Pannawonica is greater than in Paraburdoo, as the Inspire Festival Funding is allocated to Tom Price and the Youth Services Pilot Project is allocated to Pannawonica.

These projects, while stand-alone are considered operational projects therefore listed under the relevant town.

Income listed for Tom Price and Paraburdoo is from financial contributions to programs and events from other community stakeholders.





Looking Ahead to 2025 – 2026

As the Inspire Community Partnership looks ahead to the 2025/2026 financial year and beyond, the focus remains on delivering high-impact, community-led infrastructure and programs that reflect the evolving needs of Tom Price, Paraburdoo, and Pannawonica. The Inspire Community Projects Pipeline, developed collaboratively by the Tactical Advisory Team (TAT) and endorsed by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), will undergo formal review in Q1 of 2026, with updated recommendations to be presented to SLT in Q2 of 2026. This review will ensure future investments remain aligned with the Shire's strategic priorities and community aspirations.

Several key projects commenced during the 2024/2025 financial year are scheduled for completion in 2025/2026, including:

- Clem Thompson oval lighting upgrade (Tom Price)
- Peter Sutherland oval lighting upgrade (Paraburdoo)
- Pannawonica Bike Park, featuring a pump track and learn-to-ride circuit
- Pannawonica Playground renewal and Sports Club outdoor decking upgrade

These projects will enhance recreational opportunities, improve safety, and activate underutilised spaces across the Shire.

The partnership's governance framework continues to be a cornerstone of its success. TAT and SLT maintain a collaborative and transparent decision-making process, with equal representation from the Shire of Ashburton and Rio Tinto. This structure ensures that all decisions are made by consensus, supported by robust reporting, strategic planning, and community feedback loops. The use of post-event reporting, including attendance data and stakeholder insights, has strengthened accountability and informed future programming.

As the partnership enters its next phase, the shared vision between the Shire and Rio Tinto will continue to drive:

- Inclusive, community-led programming
- Strategic infrastructure development
- Transparent governance and continuous improvement

Together, TAT and SLT will ensure Inspire remains a dynamic and responsive partnership that delivers lasting value to the communities of the Shire of Ashburton.



shire of Ashburton
opportunity to community

Head Office

Lot 246, Poinciana Street, Tom Price, WA 6751
PO Box 567, Tom Price WA 6751
(08) 9188 4444
soa@ashburton.wa.gov.au

www.ashburton.wa.gov.au

Connect with us:

 [facebook.com/shireofashburton](https://www.facebook.com/shireofashburton)

 www.instagram.com/shireofashburton

 www.linkedin.com/company/shire-of-ashburton

 www.facebook.com/visitashburton

 www.instagram.com/visitashburton