



COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY:

# MEN'S SHEDS



CITY OF CANNING







# MEN'S SHEDS

Men's Sheds (also known as Community Sheds) are community organisations or spaces where people, typically older men, can come together to engage in various activities, socialise and pursue hobbies and interests. Men's Sheds are often created as a response to social isolation and loneliness, often experienced by those who have retired or are no longer in the workforce.

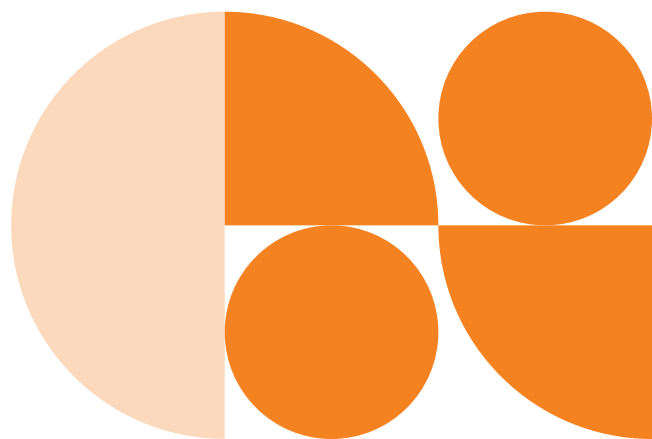
Men's Shed members typically work on individual or group projects, such as woodworking, metalwork, gardening or other crafts. They aim to create a safe and friendly environment where people can rediscover mateship, learn or teach new skills, and work together at their own pace. Men's Sheds are known to provide a supportive and social environment where members can share stories, develop practical skills and build friendships with others in the community. They are also proven to improve mental health and wellbeing, by reducing feeling of loneliness and isolation and providing opportunities for purposeful activity and social connection.

# CURRENT DELIVERY

The City currently caters to one Men’s Sheds, the Station Street Men’s Shed.

- **Station Street Men’s Shed** was formed with the support of the Canning Agricultural Horticultural and Recreation Society (CAHRS) in Cannington and utilises a shed facility onsite. Station Street Men’s Shed has plans to extend their current shed, with further land that is being made available by CAHRS.

Facility	Hierarchy	Components	Strength	Weakness
Station Street Men’s Shed Station Street, Cannington WA	No industry standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single multi-room building with additional small storage shed, small kitchen, and small outdoor patio area</li> <li>• Ample parking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central location</li> <li>• Good relationship with CAHRS</li> <li>• Good relationship with Bunnings adjacent</li> <li>• Both CAHRS and Bunnings provide opportunities for fundraising</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current facility meets the current membership needs but cannot cater for any expansion</li> <li>• Land made available by CAHRS (450m<sup>2</sup>) for additional shed</li> <li>• No identified funding sources for expansion</li> <li>• The City does not own and/or provide financial support to this facility</li> </ul>







# CASE STUDY



## 1. STATION STREET MEN'S SHED

The Station Street Men's Shed was established in 2013, as an affiliate of CAHRS. The premises are provided by CAHRS in return for a peppercorn rent, assistance with the annual Canning Show, and occasional maintenance of their equipment and facilities.

The Station Street Men's Shed is located within the grounds of CAHRS, on the corner of Albany Highway and Station Street, Cannington. The best entrance is via Station Street Gate 3 at the northern end of the rounds.

The objectives of the Shed are to advance the health and wellbeing of the members by providing a safe and happy environment where men can:

- Pursue hobbies, pastimes and interests
- Learn new skills, practice and pass on old skills
- Learn about their own and other men's health and well-being
- By their efforts, contribute to their families, their friends, the Shed and their community and
- Mentor younger men.

The Shed's facilities include a woodworking room, machine room, welding shop, craft room, library and meeting room.

The Shed is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8.30am to 12noon. It is usually closed for two weeks from late December to early January.



# INDUSTRY PROVISION RATES AND BENCHMARKING

Unlike most other community facilities, there is no standards of provision or population guidelines to assist with the planning of Men's Sheds.

Park and Leisure Australia, Western Australia's (PLA WA) Infrastructure Guidelines articulate that Men's Sheds are area/location and needs specific with development not aligned to population ratios. There appears some correlation with Senior Centres and for these to be designed as part of an integrated service offering within a community hub rather than standalone.

There are currently over 150 Men's Sheds in Western Australia, making it the state with the highest provision of such community infrastructure.

Within a 10km radius of the City, there are several other registered Men's Sheds that supplement the City's provision, as detailed below. Many of these Sheds are co-located with other service offerings. For example. Kalamunda's Men's Shed is located with the Lesmurdie Tennis Club and Gosnells' Men's Shed is located at the back of the Railway Markets and Amaroo Village.

**Table 2: Community Shed Sites Within 10km of the City of Canning**

Facility	Definition
Venue	LGA
Belmont Men's Shed	City of Belmont
Foothills Men's Shed	City of Kalamunda
Manning Men's Shed	City of South Perth
Victoria Park Men's Shed	Town of Victoria Park
Maddington Men's Shed	City of Gosnells
Gosnells Community Men's Shed	City of Gosnells
Melville Community Men's Shed	City of Melville
Cockburn Community Men's Shed	City of Cockburn





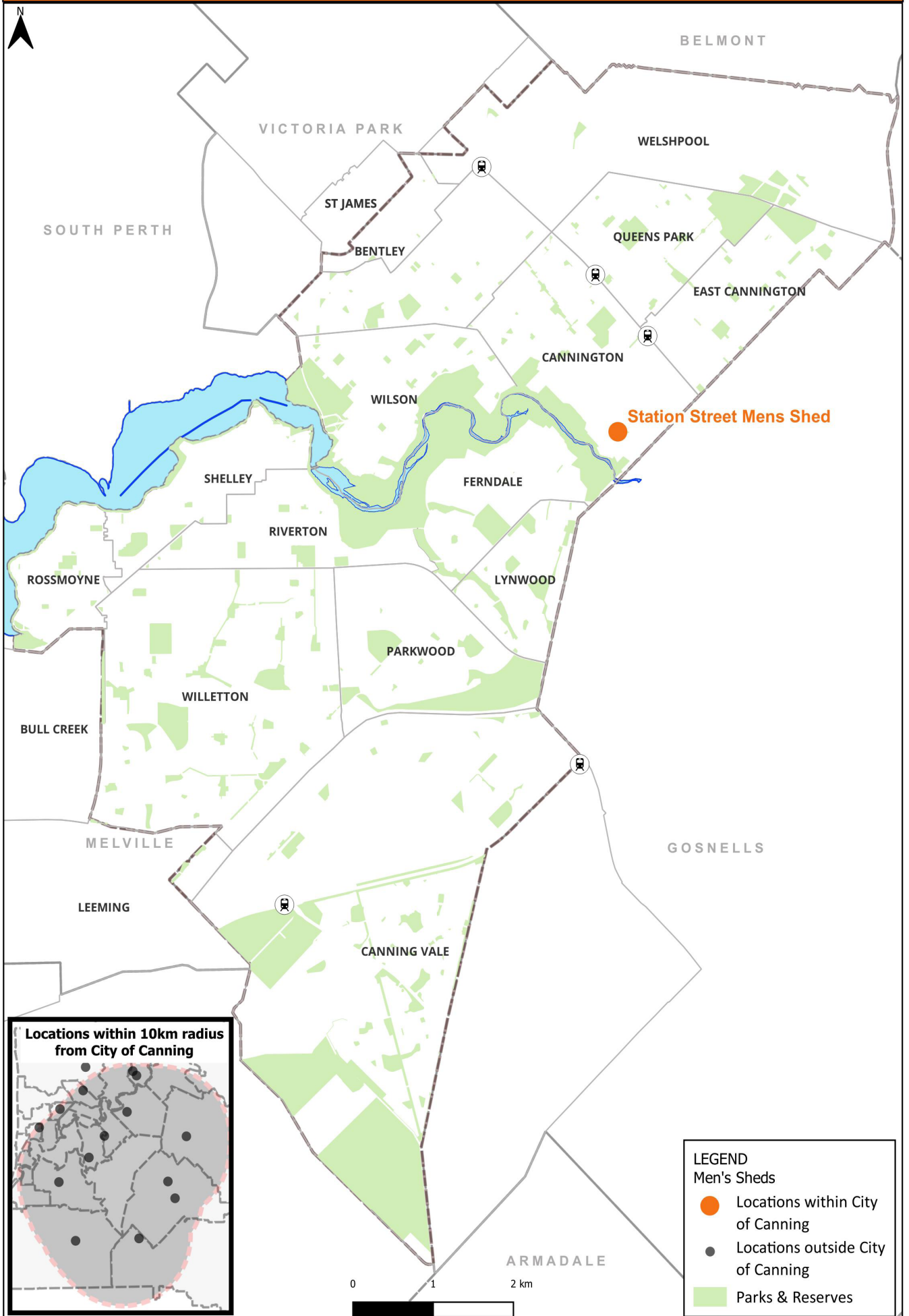


Figure 1: Men's Sheds Within a 10km Catchment of the City's Boundaries



# TRENDS

Current trends for Men's Sheds include:

- A general growth in both membership and the number of facilities nationally, over the last decade.
- An expansion of programs and services offered to members, such as health and wellbeing programs, social activities and technology classes.
- Many sheds in WA now diversifying their offerings and welcoming younger men, women, and other community members who may benefit from the social connections and support that sheds can provide.

## THE FUTURE

There is limited evidence to suggest that there will be an increased demand for Men's Sheds in the City of Canning in the near future.

Should the future need for additional or new facilities arise, the City will support Men's Sheds that are co-located or hubbed with other like facilities, and only through the development of a needs assessment and business case.

## PROVISION STANDARDS

Given the limited industry standards and provision rates, the provisioning of any new Men's Sheds in the City of Canning would be subject to a robust business case that looks to identify external funding opportunities.

# CONSULTATION FINDINGS

**This Type received 5 responses, 4 from within the City, with 3 respondents currently using this infrastructure. There are four strategic directions/recommendations proposed with all but one supported.**

Summary of Consultation	
Survey Questions	Results
Surveys Completed	5
From a suburb within the City of Canning	4
Already using Men's Shed in Canning	3
Addition consultation activities specific for this Type	Meetings with Men's shed groups Youth Consultant Network workshop Cultural Ambassadors Huddle

## Survey Response Results

	Support	Neutral	Oppose
<b>Strategic Direction 1</b> - The City of Canning's current provision of one Men's Shed is consistent with neighbouring LGA's.	2	0	3
<b>Strategic Direction 2</b> - The City may support co-located Men's Sheds with robust needs assessment and business case development.	3	0	2
<b>Recommendation 1</b> - The City of Canning continues to work with existing Men's Sheds in an advocacy capacity and to work on strategies to increase membership and capacity.	2	2	1
<b>Recommendation 2</b> - Consideration of any new Men's Shed facilities will be undertaken in the context of similar community infrastructure that would lend themselves to co-location (i.e. Arts Centre, Seniors Centre etc) and supported by a City needs assessment and business case.	4	1	0

## KEY THEMES

Importance – Most respondents outlined the importance of Men's Sheds highlighting their impact on 'the health and welfare of senior people'.

Inclusivity and Accessibility - There were comments relating to women and people with disabilities being able to use this type of infrastructure in future.

Promotion and availability: Some respondents weren't aware of this infrastructure siting improvements in promotion required.

## KEY FINDINGS

Though Strategic Direction 1 was not supported by the respondents, no additional provisions for men's sheds were identified in neighbouring local governments, either in the survey comments or through investigations conducted by officers, beyond those listed in this Type.

Most comments were in support of the strategic directions and recommendations, with the majority focusing on design and services. There was significant feedback on ensuring designs accommodate a wider portion of the community to allow access for all.

## CONSULTATION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. No changes to the Strategic Directions
2. No changes to the Recommendations



# STRATEGIC DIRECTION



The City of Canning's current provision of one Men's Shed is consistent with neighbouring LGA's.



The City may support co-located Men's Sheds with robust needs assessment and business case development.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



The City of Canning continues to work with existing Men's Sheds in an advocacy capacity and to work on strategies to increase membership and capacity.



Consideration of any new Men's Shed facilities will be undertaken in the context of similar community infrastructure that would lend themselves to co-location (i.e. Arts Centre, Seniors Centre etc) and supported by a City needs assessment and business case.







