



# Northam

## ...a WA SuperTown

A rich heritage, growing population and strategic location is consolidating Northam's status as a primary regional centre.



Northam is one of nine SuperTowns in the southern half of the State being transformed – building on their strong community spirit and unique geographical and economic features to create a new scale of regional centre that will cater for Western Australia's growing population.

The SuperTowns have developed detailed plans for long term growth, confirming each region as an attractive alternative to the city for people to live, work and invest.

Up to \$85million in Royalties for Regions funding has been provided in the first year of the SuperTowns initiative for growth planning and 17 new projects, to help towns like Northam grow sustainably and fulfil their potential.

Situated on the banks of the picturesque Avon River, Northam has a rich heritage and a culturally diverse population which adds to the vibrancy of the town. With a thriving agricultural industry, Northam is known for its relaxed country lifestyle and boasts a wide range of cultural, education, health and recreation facilities, shops and services.

Well-serviced and located both close to Perth and the State's rail and road freight routes, Northam is strategically placed to take advantage of this and explore opportunities to develop light industrial and logistics businesses to service the mining and industrial sectors.

Located 100kilometres east of Perth, Northam's population of 7,000 is set to almost triple by 2031 to 20,000. To meet the town's objective of becoming the primary regional centre of the Central Wheatbelt, a detailed Growth Plan has been created.

Two key projects have been funded under the SuperTowns program in 2012 to expand the health services on offer in the town and undertake key environmental works. It is envisioned that this funding will drive additional growth which will attract further investment from public and private companies, enhancing the town and also benefiting the neighbouring communities.

Image 1 Courtesy of Tourism Western Australia.

## SuperTown project 1: Development of the Health and Community Services precinct

As a regional hub in the Central Wheatbelt, Northam is home to major medical facilities and also the emergency services. The establishment of a Health and Community Services Precinct would allow for the regional health and emergency services to be centrally located in proximity to the existing Northam Regional Hospital Site.

With the Regional Hospital set to be expanded through the Royalties for Regions Southern Inland Health Initiative, the establishment of a new GP Superclinic and the construction of a new regional St John Ambulance (WA) sub-centre and regional office, the precinct will provide a consolidated area for primary and secondary health care. A University of Western Australia Rural Clinical School has also been proposed, which would not only provide another level of health service for the residents of the Wheatbelt region but also provide an excellent tertiary-based health training facility.

In the future, the precinct also has the potential to be the centre for emergency services in the region which incorporates FESA, St John Ambulance (WA) Inc, Volunteer Fire Rescue Service, State Emergency Services and other associated organisations.

To build Northam's health services capacity, more than \$4.8million in funding is being provided to plan and potentially purchase land on the existing Northam Hospital site on which a range of regional health services and facilities can be co-located.

The staged development of the Avon Health and Community Services Precinct will significantly enhance the health services being offered to the Northam and greater Central Wheatbelt communities and create a central hub which will attract additional services and the associated professional workforce.



## SuperTown project 2: Avon River revitalisation and riverfront development

The town of Northam is situated in a valley on the Avon River. Since European settlement approximately 175 years ago, the development of the adjoining waterways and also changes to the Avon River itself have led to a number of environmental issues that require additional planning and retention works for stormwater drainage.

Advancing the health of the Town Pool and the Avon River itself are priorities and more than \$3.65million has been allocated to undertake environmental improvements. As the Town Pool often dries out in summer and detracts from the amenity of the town, works will be carried out to improve the appearance of the pool, potentially unlocking the opportunity to revitalise and redevelop the pool foreshore and areas adjacent to it, which would create a renewed community asset and attraction for visitors.

Works will be carried out to assist with the improvement of the quality of the water and the appearance of the Avon River. Due to the complex nature of the issues associate with the Avon River and the townsite drainage, the project will be staged, with Stage 1 including construction of nutrient-stripping detention basis, piping of drainage lines, and recutting of stormwater flows, with further detailed planning work to implement future stages.

These undertakings will improve the health and appearance of the water systems around Northam to the betterment of both the environment and the community.

## Royalties for Regions

In addition to the more than \$8.4million in SuperTown funding, Northam has been allocated almost \$30million in Royalties for Regions funding (not including the funds for the Northam Regional Hospital). Some of the major projects include the construction of the Northam Recreation Centre, the expansion of the Killara Adult Day Care Centre, construction of a purpose-built respite centre, establishment of a Clontarf Academy, upgrading of Northam Senior High School, redevelopment of Muresk College, housing for government employees and the Avon Water Reuse Project.

## More information

For more information about WA's SuperTowns, please visit:  
Department of Regional Development and Lands [www.rdl.wa.gov.au/SuperTowns](http://www.rdl.wa.gov.au/SuperTowns)  
Shire of Northam [www.northam.wa.gov.au](http://www.northam.wa.gov.au)

Image 2 Courtesy of Tourism Western Australia.