Residents of Withers can expect to see positive change happening in their suburb in the near future, now that the State Government has made up to $1.5million available for initial revitalisation works.

The funding has been set aside to allow the South West Development Commission and City of Bunbury to plan for early works following completion and evaluation of public feedback.

And to get things moving so residents can start enjoying improvements sooner rather than later, some of the allocated money will immediately be put into enhancing parks and play equipment in the area.

How the rest of the $1.5million will be spent will be determined after public feedback has been received on the draft Withers Urban Renewal Strategy and funding priorities can be determined.

The Withers Urban Renewal Project is a joint project between the City of Bunbury and South West Development Commission that aims is to make Withers an even better place to live.

What part of Withers does the renewal project focus on?
The project focuses on the whole of Withers. While some aspects of the draft renewal project have highlighted opportunities for enhancing the shopping and library district, the project is very much about improving the entire suburb. If you believe an area has been overlooked, please let us know when you submit feedback on the report.

How was the draft renewal strategy developed?
The draft renewal report was developed by independent consultants after reviewing the strengths, wishes and opportunities put forward by local people during the public consultation stage of the project.

Is there still time to provide feedback on the draft renewal strategy?
Yes, there is still time for people to have their say about the ideas proposed in the report. People are invited to provide feedback on the draft report right up until the close of the public comment period on Friday February 8. Feedback from the public is important to ensure the final plan reflects the values and wishes of the community.

What will happen when the public comment period closes?
After considering people’s comments, the report will be finalised by the consultants. It will then need to be endorsed by Bunbury council and the South West Development Commission board.

What will happen when the report is finalised?
It is intended the report will be used to guide future development in Withers. Business cases, including costings, will need to be carried out for each of the projects approved for action by the City of Bunbury and South West Development Commission. This is to ensure the right planning is done to achieve the best possible outcome for the individual projects. Once this has been completed, and funding secured, works can begin.
Draft renewal strategy out for public comment

The report designed to guide the transformation of Withers into an even better place to live has been released for public comment – and we want to know what you think.

People are encouraged to get hold of a copy of the draft and provide feedback on the ideas recommended for enhancing the suburb.


Copies of the document are also available to pick up from the South West Development Commission, City of Bunbury, Hudson Road Family Centre, Bunbury City Library, South West Sports Centre and Hudson Road Health Care.

Feedback about the report should be made online at www.yoursaybunbury.com.au, submitted to dmas@bunbury.wa.gov.au or delivered to Withers Urban Renewal Strategy Feedback, City of Bunbury Administration Building, 4 Stephen Street, Bunbury, WA, 6230.

The closing date for submissions is Friday February 8.

What’s happened so far?

The City of Bunbury and South West Development Commission signed a memorandum of understanding, paving the way for the two organisations to work together on planning for the future of Withers

Project management group is formed to facilitate community consultation and provide feedback to consultants

Consultation with government, local businesses and Withers community organisations

Community feedback via online survey, public meetings and community events

Consultation with local youth, Withers Action Group and the indigenous community

Public meeting informs on the wishes, opportunities, concerns and key issues that arose during consultation

Withers community BBQ and information session

What’s next?

Public invited to provide comment on the draft Withers Urban Renewal Strategy

Evaluation of feedback following public release

Report finalised – recommendations considered for implementation by project partners