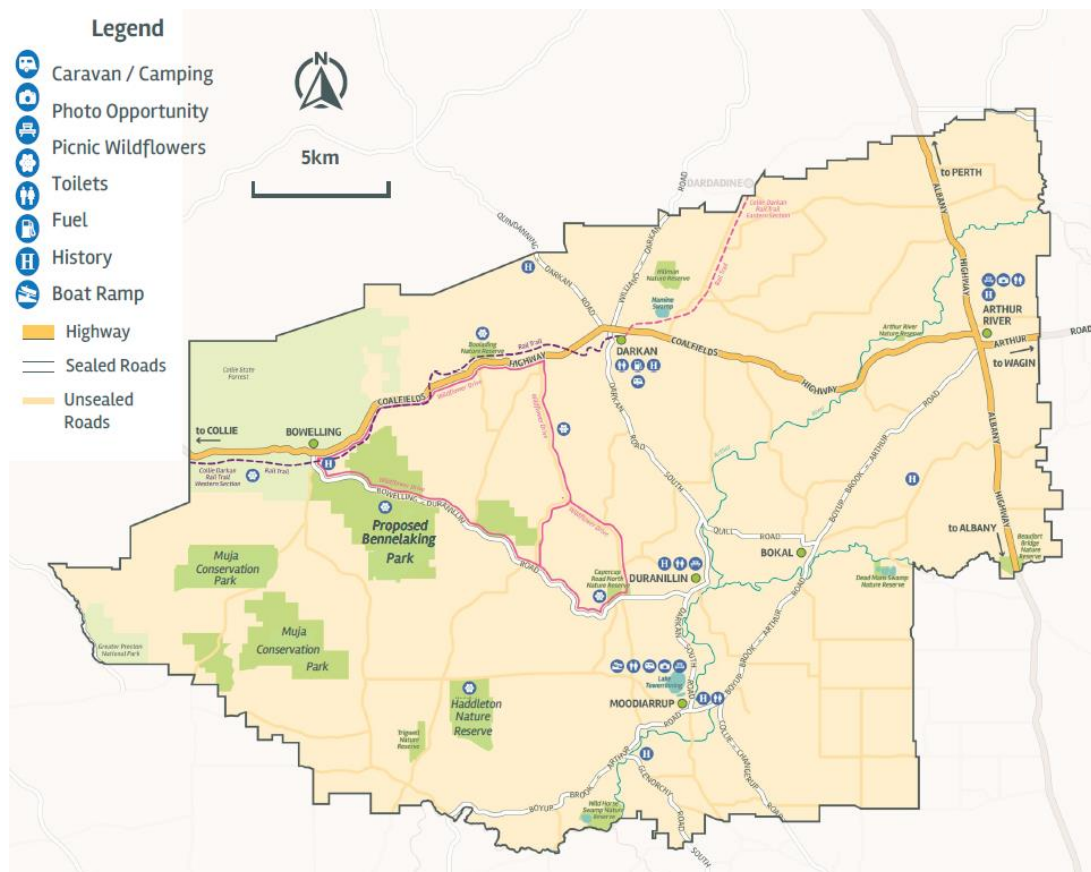


Shire of West Arthur

Submission to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

The Shire of West Arthur appreciates the difficulty in balancing the number of refund points at a reasonable scheme cost, however the Shire is concerned that there is no proposed collection point in the Shire of West Arthur. If West Arthur residents are unable to easily access a refund point, they may be inclined to place their containers in landfill, placing ongoing pressure on our sites and not aligning with the purpose of the scheme. The Shire believes that it is imperative that an easily accessible option is provided to our residents.

The Shire of West Arthur is located in the south west of the Wheatbelt region. It has a population of 809 people and an area of 2850 square kilometres. Darkan is the administrative centre of the Shire.



The refund point allocation by region at Appendix 8 of the report does not list Darkan or the Shire of West Arthur. The appendix includes reference to town and not community wide or Shire populations.

The report proposes a population threshold of 500 for a flexible refund point, however the Shire of West Arthur has a population greater than 500 and it is not proposed to locate a flexible refund point in the Shire.

Whilst we are aware that the lack of a refund point in our Shire would open up opportunities for community group fundraising, our small community has a limited volunteer base and has found it difficult to find volunteers with the time to transport materials to regional centres in the past.

Shire of West Arthur residents do travel to adjoining communities for sport, appointments, and shopping, however having to transport containers to an adjoining town may not be convenient for a number of factors including other commitments not being aligned with the opening hours of the refund point i.e. after work, time pressures to meet appointment times and other commitments, or travelling with young children or elderly family members that limit the number of errands that can be attended to in one visit.

The Shire of West Arthur is requesting a flexible refund point for the Darkan townsite or an alternative satellite system that would allow for refund of containers in smaller communities and transport to refund points in larger regional centres, with no out of pocket expenses for the Shire of West Arthur.