

Advocacy Priorities 2026–2027

Bicentenary Funding

Council Position

Council seeks State Government funding and partnership to enable the Town of Bassendean to deliver a meaningful and inclusive commemoration of the 2029 Bicentenary.

Priority funding objectives include:

- Delivery of legacy infrastructure (e.g. commemorative public art)
- Preservation and enhancement of Bassendean Oval heritage assets, including grandstands and gates
- Ongoing maintenance and programming at the Pensioner Guard Cottage, 1 Surrey Street
- Delivery of community programs, events and projects contributing to local and statewide Bicentenary commemorations.

Background

The Town of Bassendean is located on Whadjuk Noongar Country along the Derbal Yerrigan (Swan River), with places such as Success Hill holding deep cultural and spiritual significance. Following the establishment of the Swan River Colony in 1829, the area developed through early land grants and river-based transport, including the Cleikum Inn and ferry service.

Key heritage assets include the State Heritage-listed Pensioner Guard Cottage, while significant growth from the late 19th century saw the establishment of local institutions, schools and rail infrastructure. Renamed Bassendean in 1922, the district evolved into a civic and sporting centre, becoming a Shire in 1961 and a Town in 1975. ►



In 2029, Western Australia will mark the Bicentenary of the Swan River Colony. Bassendean's strong connections to the river corridor and its historic community places position it to contribute meaningfully to statewide commemorations. The Bicentenary presents an opportunity to acknowledge First Nations and colonial histories while celebrating contemporary multicultural contributions, requiring early planning to deliver lasting heritage, infrastructure and community outcomes in partnership with the State.

What the Town plans to do

The Town will collaborate with key partners to develop a Bassendean Bicentenary program that celebrates the community's identity, heritage and future— one that is inclusive, distinctly local and thoughtfully aligned with broader statewide commemorative objectives.

- The Town will advocate to secure State Government support to unlock investment in both legacy infrastructure and dynamic community programs (e.g. heritage building upgrades and commemorative public art).
- Work collaboratively with State Government, neighbouring local governments, First Nations representatives, the Bassendean Historical Society, schools, local community organisations and the creative sector to co-design and deliver the program.
- Develop a clear project scope identifying proposed legacy assets (soft and built infrastructure) and a suite of community programs (e.g. cultural storytelling, walking tours, exhibitions and events highlighting Bassendean's First Nations and colonial histories and today's community).

