Measuring and monitoring the liveability of Growth Areas in Australian Capital Cities

# Growth Areas Liveability Scorecard for Perth

Australian Urban Observatory

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**Detailed Liveability Indicator data and maps can be accessed through the Australian Urban Observatory**

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# About this report

This report is the first series of Growth Areas Liveability Scorecard Reports developed in partnership with the National Growth Areas Alliance. The Growth Area Liveability Scorecards have been developed for the capital cities of Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney and Perth include indicators and maps from the Australian Urban Observatory measuring the liveability of 21 Australian cities. The Scorecards focus on the fastest growing Local Government Areas located in outer metropolitan and peri-urban regions of Australia's five largest capital cities. The Growth Area Liveability Scorecards identify differences between Growth Areas and Non-Growth Areas across Australian capital cities. Results are based on previous City Liveability Scorecards developed by the Australian Urban Observatory @ RMIT University and are based on 2021 indicator results.

**More detailed neighbourhood, suburb, and Local Government Area results across Australian cities are available online at auo.org.au.**

**Liveability Index**

**Housing Affordability**

**Walkability for Transport Index**

**Frequent Public Transport Accessibility**

**Public Open Space**

**Social Infrastructure Index**

**Health Infrastructure**

**Cultural Infrastructure**

**Education Infrastructure**

**Community and Sport Infrastructure**

# Liveability Index

## Rationale

The economic, social, environmental, and health co-benefits of urban liveability are recognised by all levels of government in Australia and internationally. Liveable communities are safe, socially cohesive and inclusive, and environmentally sustainable. They have affordable housing linked via public transport, walking and cycling infrastructure, to employment, education, shops and services, public open space, and social, cultural, and recreational opportunities.

## What we measured

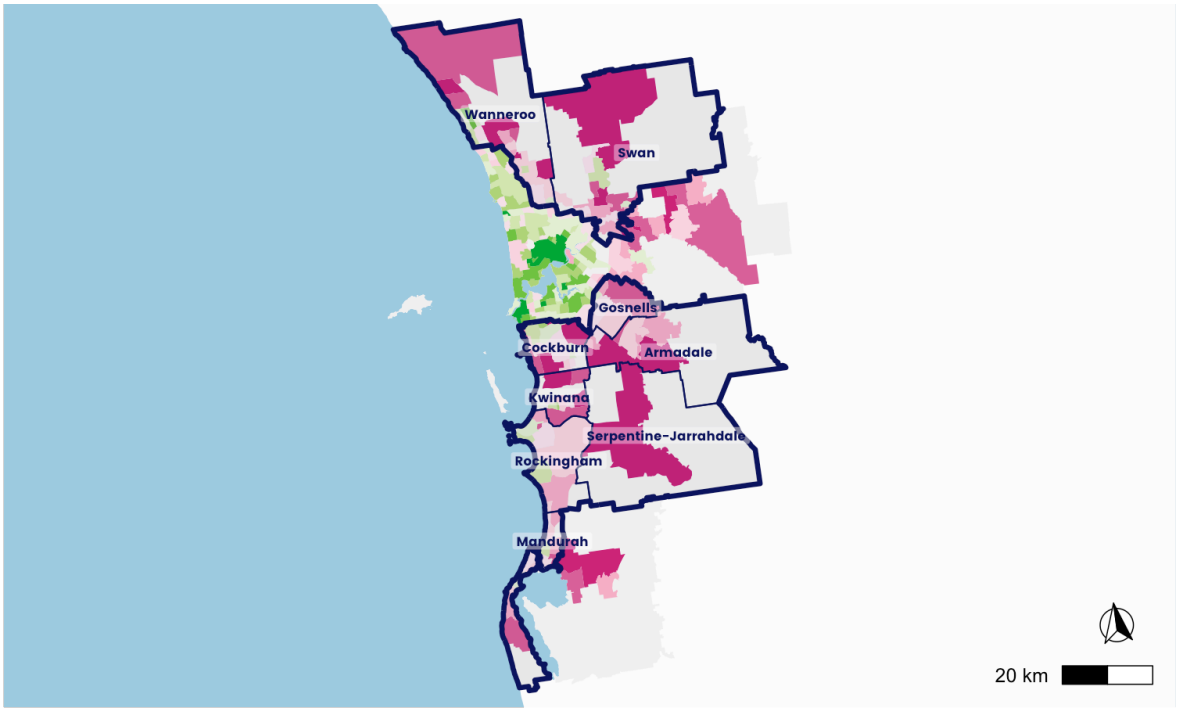
The Liveability Index is underpinned by over a decade of research. It combines six domains of liveability found to be associated with health and wellbeing outcomes: walkability; access to social infrastructure; public transport; larger public open space; affordable housing; and local employment.

**The Liveability Index score for residences in Growth Areas of Perth is**

97.

**This Liveability Index score is lower than the Perth city average of 98 and the non-growth areas of Perth where the average is 100.**

**Figure 1. Liveability Index for Perth at suburb level highlighting Growth Area Local Government Areas.**




Data: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2021 under CC by 4.0; OpenStreetMap, 2021 under ODbL; Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority, 2021; Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, 2021; Healthdirect Australia National Health Services Directory, 2021, via AURIN Portal, 2021
Map tiles: CartoDB, under CC BY 3.0, featuring data by OpenStreetMap, under ODbL.

# Social Infrastructure Index

## Rationale

Social infrastructure provides access to essential community services and resources. Access to a wide range of different types of social infrastructure is important for the creation and ongoing development of healthy communities. High levels of access to social infrastructure are linked to increased physical activity, wellbeing, and satisfaction with the local community, improving social interactions and mental health outcomes.

## What we measured

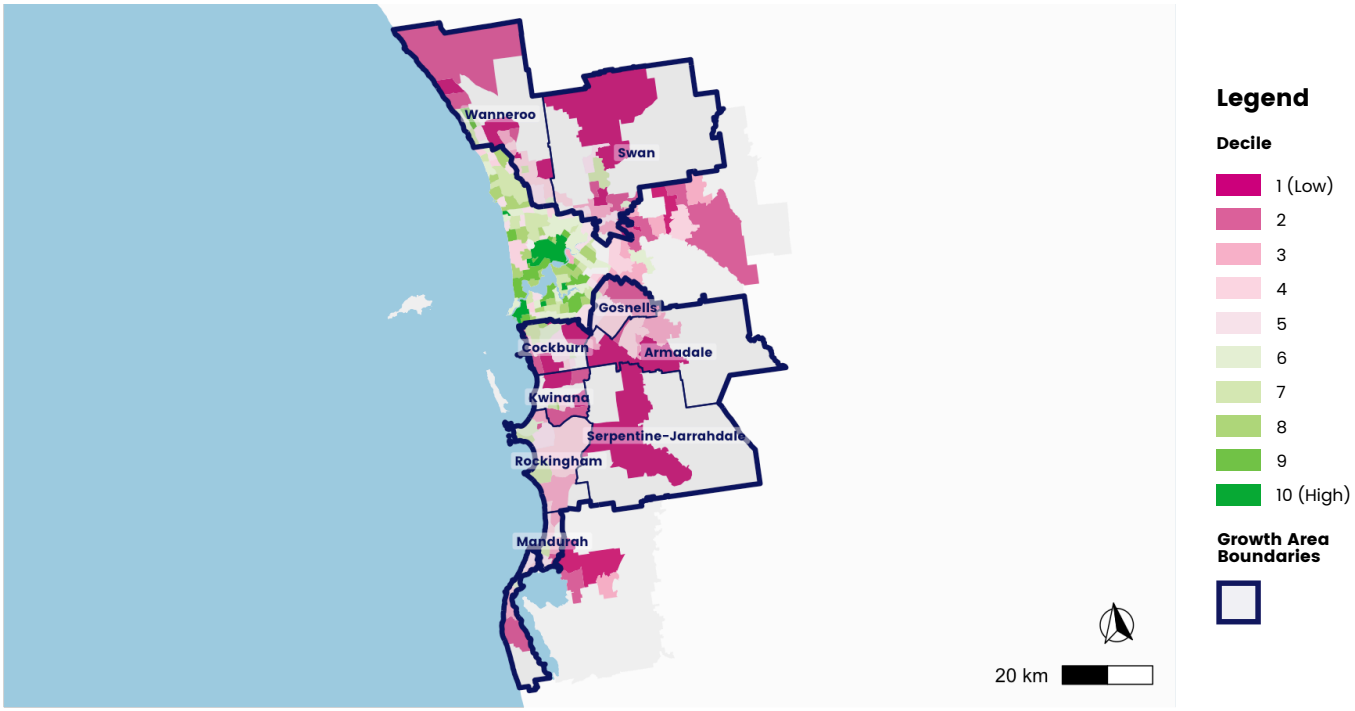
The Social Infrastructure Index includes access to 16 types of social infrastructure at various recommended distances from dwellings. It includes access to childcare facilities, community centres, libraries, aged care facilities, pharmacies, family and community healthcare, dentists and general practitioners, sporting facilities, swimming pools, outside school hours childcare, primary and secondary schools, museums or galleries, and cinemas and theatres.

**The Social Infrastructure Index score for residences in Growth Areas of Perth is**

## 4 out of a total of 16.

**This score is lower than the Perth city average of 5 and the non-growth areas average of 6.**

**Figure 2. Social Infrastructure Index for Perth at suburb level highlighting Growth Area Local Government Areas.**



# Health Infrastructure

## Rationale

Health infrastructure describes services related to health included within social infrastructure. Access to health infrastructure is critical for ensuring community health and wellbeing. High-quality health services and infrastructure are essential for providing timely medical care, preventive health services and promoting overall public health.

## What we measured

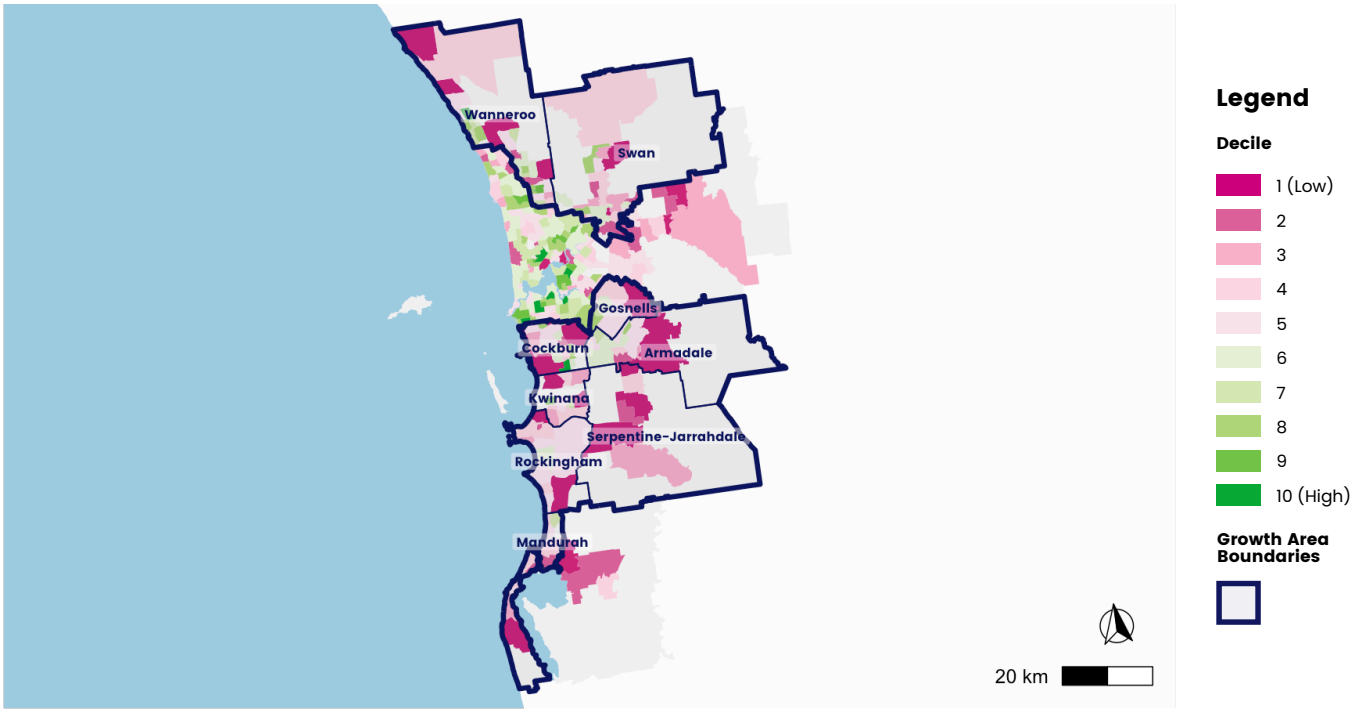
Health Infrastructure is a sub-domain of the Social Infrastructure Index. Access was measured according to the proximity of dwellings to primary healthcare services, including aged care facilities, General Practitioners, dentists, pharmacies, maternal child and family health centres and community health centres within specified distances.

**The Health Infrastructure score for residences in Growth Areas of Perth is**

## 1 out of a total of 6.

**This score is lower than the Perth city average of 2 and the non-growth areas average of 2.**

**Figure 3. Access to Health Infrastructure for Perth at suburb level highlighting Growth Area Local Government Areas.**




Data: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2021 under CC by 4.0; OpenStreetMap, 2021 under ODbL; Healthdirect Australia National Health Services Directory, 2021, via AURIN Portal, 2021. Map tiles: CartoDB, under CC BY 3.0, featuring data by OpenStreetMap, under ODbL.

# Cultural Infrastructure

## Rationale

Cultural infrastructure describes services related to arts and culture that are included within social infrastructure. Cultural infrastructure plays an important role in fostering community cohesion, creativity, and cultural expression. Access to facilities such as museums, theatres, and galleries enhances the cultural fabric of a community, contributing to wellbeing, social cohesion, vibrancy and attractiveness.

## What we measured

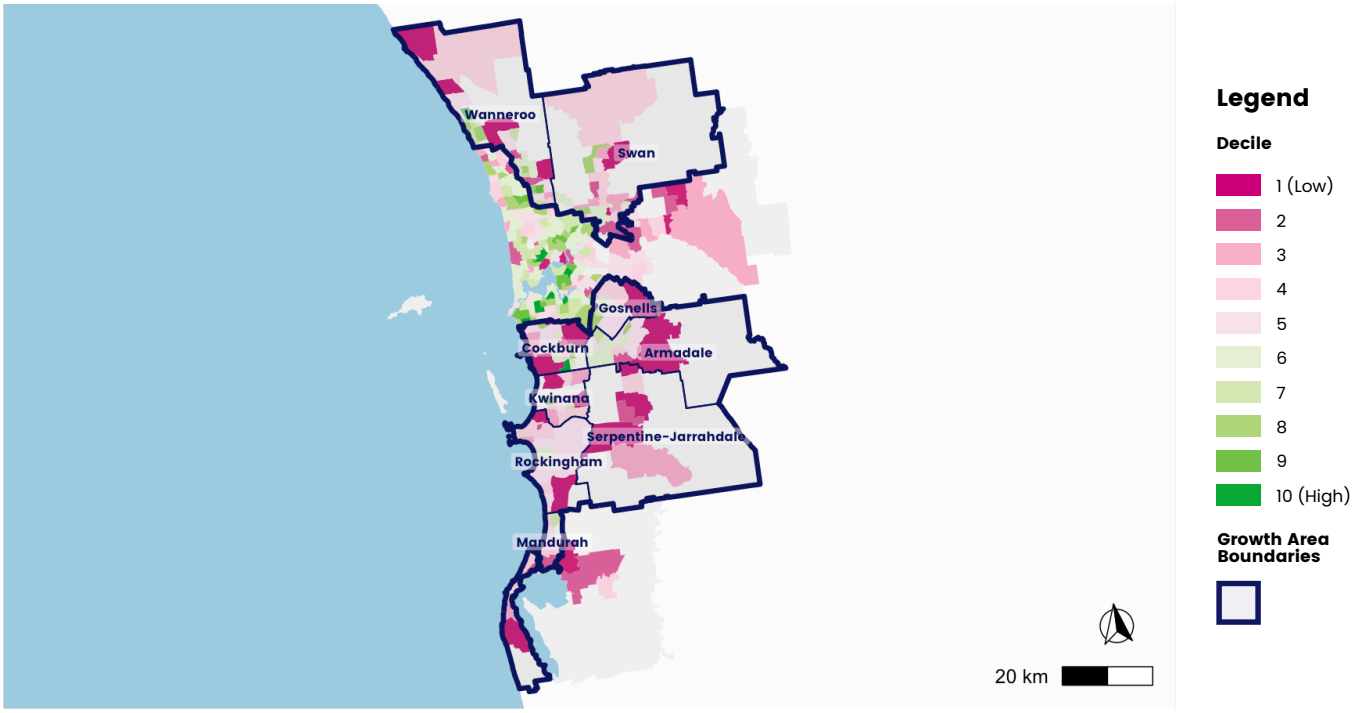
Cultural Infrastructure is a sub-domain of the Social Infrastructure Index. Cultural infrastructure was measured according to the proximity of dwellings to key cultural assets including museums/art galleries, cinemas/theatres and libraries that provide residents with opportunities for cultural engagement.

**The Cultural Infrastructure score for residences in Growth Areas of Perth is**

## 0.3 out of a total of 3.

**This score is lower than the Perth city average of 0.5 and the non-growth areas average of 0.7.**

**Figure 4. Access to cultural and leisure infrastructure for Perth at suburb level highlighting Growth Area Local Government Areas.**



# Education Infrastructure

## Rationale

Education infrastructure describes services related to education that are included within social infrastructure. Access to quality education infrastructure is fundamental to a thriving community and improved health outcomes. Schools, universities, and vocational training centres provide opportunities for learning and development, ensuring residents have access to education that can improve their quality of life and future social and economic prospects.

## What we measured

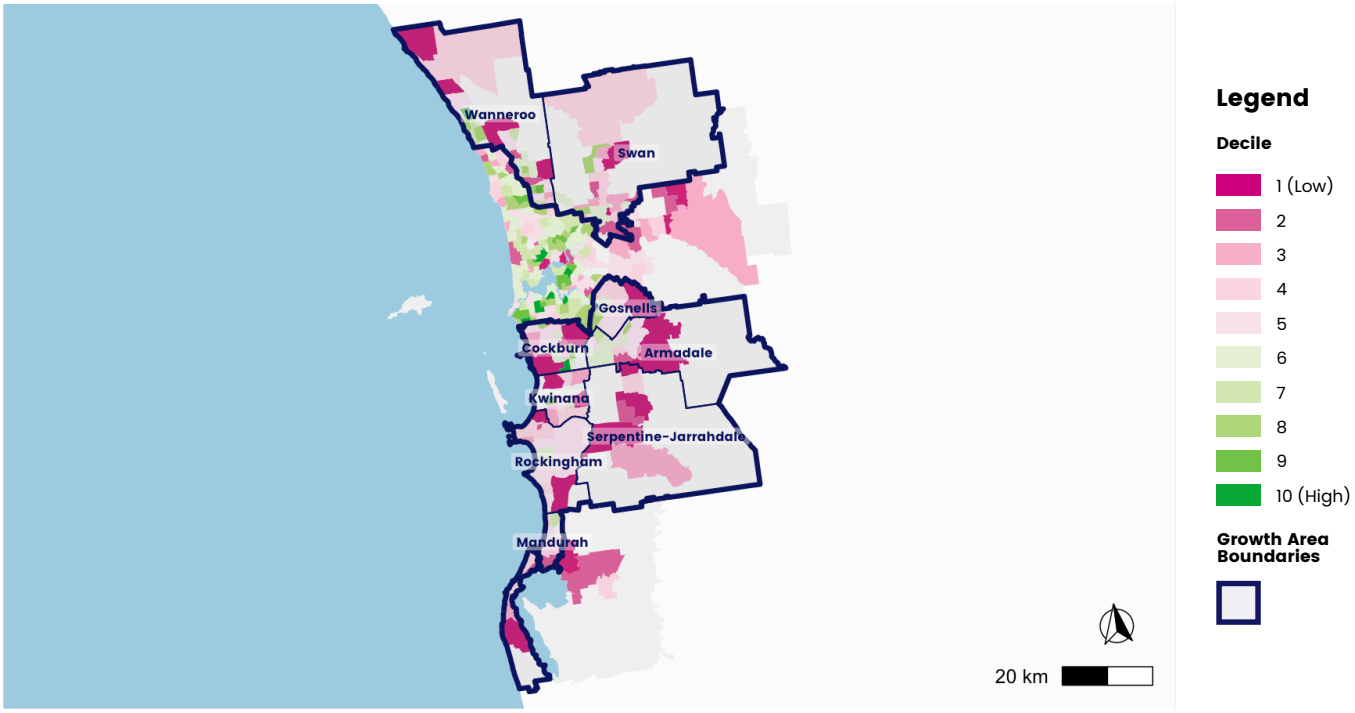
Education Infrastructure is a sub-domain of the Social Infrastructure Index. Education infrastructure was measured according to the proximity of dwellings to childcare, out of hours school care, Government primary schools and Government, secondary schools. Access was evaluated by calculating the percentage of dwellings within specified distances of these educational facilities.

**The Education Infrastructure score for residences in Growth Areas of Perth is**

## 2 out of a total of 4.

**This score is lower than the Perth city average of 2 and the non-growth areas average of 2.**

**Figure 5. Access to Education Infrastructure for Perth at suburb level highlighting Growth Area Local Government Areas.**

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# Community and Sport Infrastructure

## Rationale

Community and Sport infrastructure describes specific community and sport infrastructure included within social infrastructure. Community and sport infrastructure, including community centres, sporting facilities, and parks, plays a key role in promoting social cohesion, physical and mental health and community wellbeing. Accessible community and sport infrastructure encourages social interaction and participation in recreation.

## What we measured

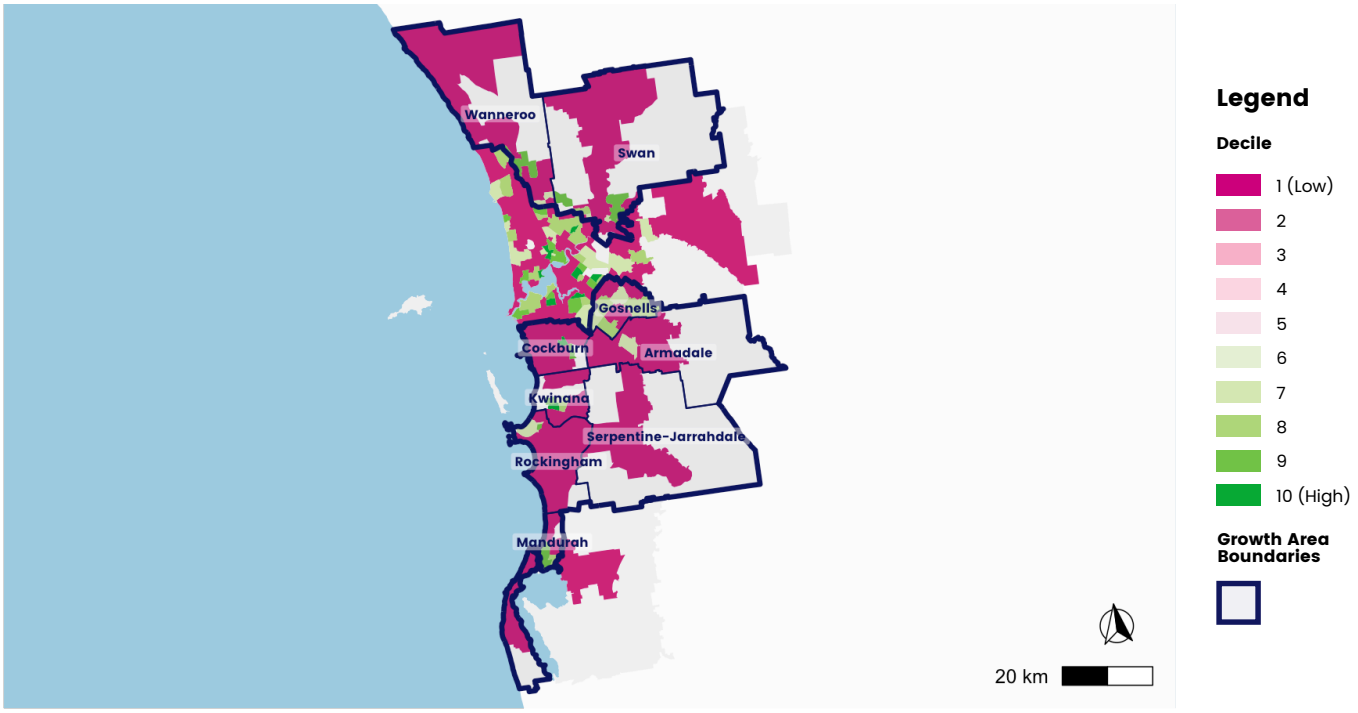
Community and Sport Infrastructure is a sub-domain of the Social Infrastructure Index. Access to community and sport infrastructure was measured based on proximity to community centres, public swimming pools and council supported recreation/leisure centres within recommended distances.

**The Community and Sport Infrastructure score for residences in Growth Areas of Perth is**

## 0.1 out of a total of 3.

**This score is lower than the Perth city average of 0.1 and the non-growth areas average of 0.1.**

**Figure 6. Access to Community and Sport Infrastructure for Perth at suburb level highlighting Growth Area Local Government Areas.**



# Walkability for Transport

## Rationale

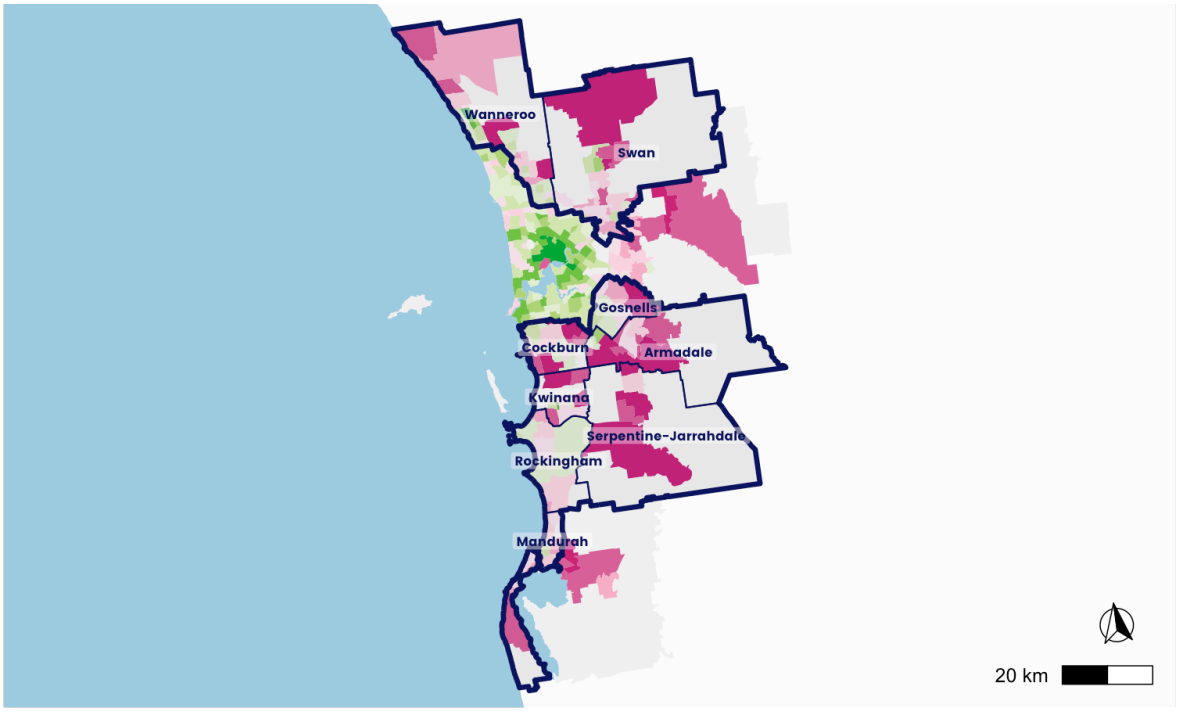
Walkability measures the ease of walking for transport in an area. Neighbourhoods with shops and services to walk to, small blocks and good street connectivity, and higher population density tend to be more walkable. Walkable neighborhoods discourage driving, support social interaction and increase walking, cycling, and active transport use which improves levels of physical activity and reduces chronic disease outcomes.

## What we measured

Walkability for Transport is calculated as a composite index that includes access to daily living destinations (something to walk to), dwelling density (population needed to supply services and destinations), and street connectivity (a way to get there) within a reasonable walking distance of home.

**Walkability for Transport is generally lower in most Growth Areas of Perth which have lower density and fewer destinations to walk to, though there are some suburbs in Growth Areas with walkable areas. The map below reveals that inner areas of Perth have the highest levels of walkability that encourage walking for transport, more daily physical activity and better health outcomes.**

**Figure 7. Walkablity Index for Perth at suburb level highlighting Growth Area Local Government Areas**



# Frequent Public Transport

## Rationale

Living close to public transport supports sustainability and health and wellbeing by encouraging walking, reducing dependence on driving private vehicles, and facilitates social connectivity with family and friends, employment, education and amenities. People who live close to public transport are more likely to use it and more likely to achieve the requirements of daily recommended physical activity.

## What we measured

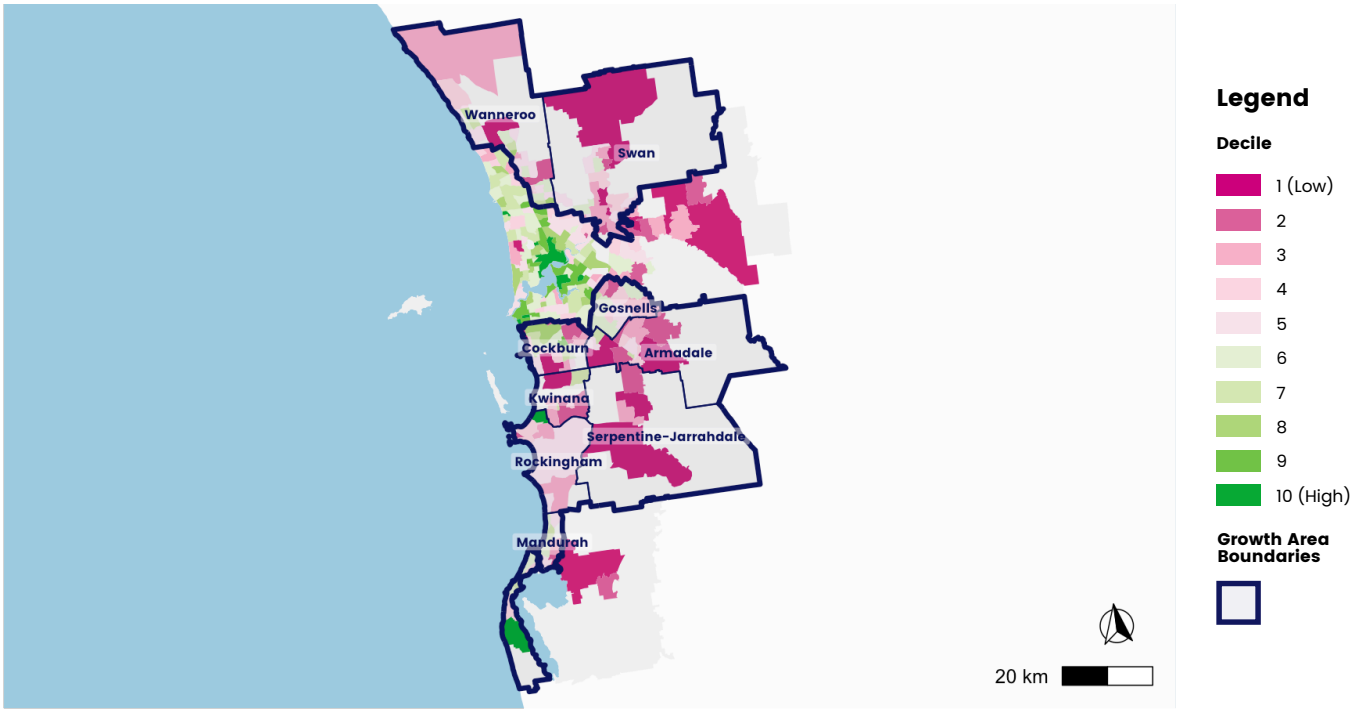
We measured access to bus, train, and tram stops with an average service interval of no more than 30 minutes between the weekday hours of 7 am and 7 pm. Access was measured as the percentage of dwellings with a regular service within 400m of any of these stops based on a walkable road network distance.

**The percentage of households in Growth Areas of Perth with access to Regular Public Transport is**

41%.

**This is lower than the Perth city average of 51% and the non-growth areas average of 60%.**

**Figure 8. Access to Frequent Public Transport within 400m across Perth at suburb level highlighting Growth Area Local Government Areas.**



# Public Open Space

## Rationale

Public Open Space includes parks, open areas, and places where people can congregate for active and passive recreation and enjoyment. Public Open Spaces support both the physical and mental health of people living nearby. Green public open spaces also support ecosystems, ecology and biodiversity of an area and provide cooling effects mitigating urban heat island effects.

## What we measured

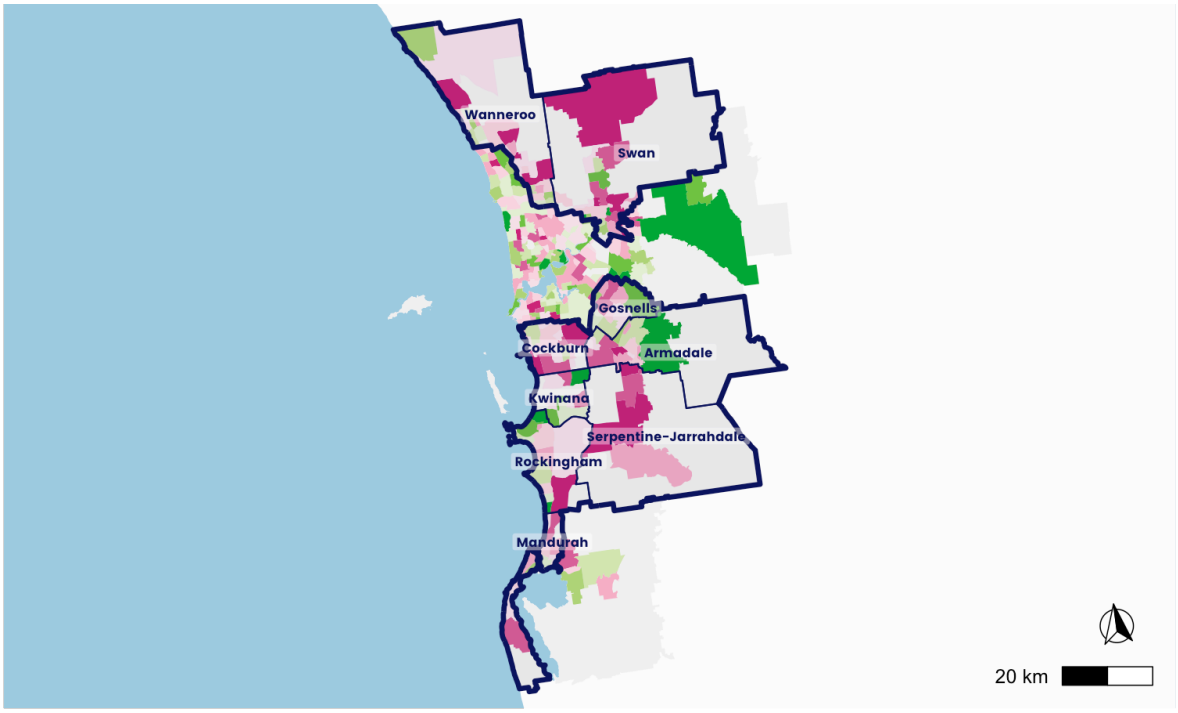
Large Public Open Space was defined as urban parks greater than or equal to 1.5 hectares, since larger parks have been shown to support physical activity. Access was measured as the percentage of dwellings within 400m based on a walkable road network distance.

**The percentage of households in Growth Areas of Perth with access to Public Open Space is**

33%.

**This is similar to the Perth city average of 36% and higher than the non-growth areas average of 38%.**

**Figure 9. Percentage of residences within 400m of Large Public Open Space across Perth at suburb level highlighting Growth Area Local Government Areas.**




Data: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2021 under CC by 4.0; OpenStreetMap, 2021 under ODbL.
Map tiles: CartoDB, under CC BY 3.0, featuring data by OpenStreetMap, under ODbL.

# Housing Affordability

## Rationale

Decent and affordable housing supports families by providing safe, stable, and healthy shelter. Affordable housing frees up family finances for use on healthcare and food, and supports physical and mental health and wellbeing. Housing affordability stress is associated with poorer self-reported health, higher community dissatisfaction, and residents feeling unsafe.

## What we measured

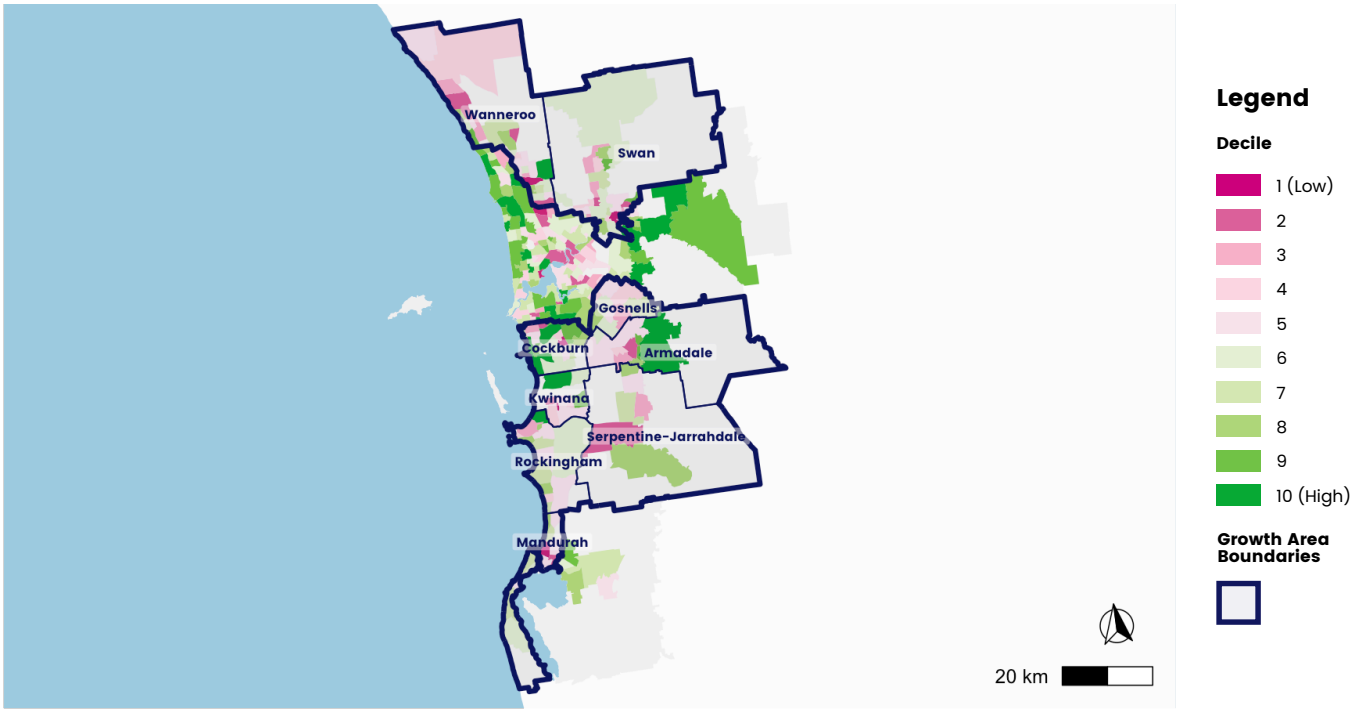
Housing affordability was measured according to housing stress and represents any household spending more than 30% of their household income on housing costs.

**The percentage of households in Growth Areas of Perth spending more than 30% of income on housing is**

14%.

**This is similar to the Perth city average of 13% while the non-growth areas average is lower at 12%.**

**Figure 10. Percentage of households under housing affordability stress across Perth at suburb level highlighting Growth Area Local Government Areas.**



# Summary for Perth

| Indicator | Brief Description | Value | Difference between Growth and Non-Growth Areas | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Liveability Index | Liveability Index | 97 | ● | Similar* |
| Social Infrastructure Index | Social Infrastructure Index | 4 destinations | ▼ | Worse |
| Health Infrastructure | Health facilities and services | 1 destination | ▼ | Worse |
| Cultural Infrastructure | Cultural Destinations | 0.3 destinations | ▼ | Worse |
| Education Infrastructure | Educational facilities | 2 destinations | ▼ | Worse |
| Community and Sport Infrastructure | Community and sport facilities | 0.1 destinations | ▼ | Similar* |
| Walkability Index | Walkability Index | see map | ● | Worse* |
| Public Transport | Percentage living within 400m to regular public transport | 41% | ▼ | Worse |
| Public Open Space | Percentage living within 400m of public open space of 1.5 hectares | 33% | ▲ | Better |
| Housing Affordability | Percentage of households spending more than 30% of income on housing | 14% | ▼ | Worse |

* Similar = less than 10% difference between Growth Areas and non-growth areas.

Please visit the Australian Urban Observatory at **auo.org.au** for more reports covering the liveability of Australia's 21 largest cities.

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