

## SPALDING PROFILE

The suburb of Spalding was gazetted in 1979 and is bordered by bushland to the east, and the Highway to the west. The sports grounds and golf course frames the northern perimeter and the south adjoins the industrial area of Webberson.

The population in Spalding as of the 2011 census was 2,319 persons. Spalding has a number of social indicator issues including high unemployment, low education and large families presenting the suburb as one of the lowest socio-economic locations in Greater Geraldton and is lacking in localised facilities and services.

Residents are poorly serviced and must travel to adjoining suburbs for supermarkets, fuel, schools, chemists and doctors, and as such many cross the highway to Bluff Point for daily needs.

### HOUSING

Housing is generally in average condition with a median home value of \$262k which compared to the adjoining suburbs much lower (Bluff Point \$420k, Webberson \$412k) suggesting the suburb attracts first buyers and has low rents. The suburb also includes sections of Department of Housing tenancies which are generally in a deteriorated condition due to their age and lack of reconditioning. The suburb has a high number of non-owners and due to lower rental values directly attracts low income and welfare recipient tenants.

### CRIME

The WA Police crime statistics for Spalding are considerably above average with high incidences for domestic callouts, break and enter, drug and alcohol related offences and vandalism. Reports conclude that anti-social behaviour is a neighbourhood wide concern in which personal and property safety is a major issue with a large number of Police related incidents involving unsupervised children and groups of minors.

### PARKS & STREETS

The defined parks are maintained by the City and although some are presentable others are in need of upgrading. There are some large sections of unused land which are undeveloped and some present issues of illegal dumping, homeless camping and discarded needles. The suburb is highly littered and broken glass is found in public spaces throughout the parks and streets. The suburb lacks concrete footpaths with many pedestrians regularly using the road as the more accessible surface in preference to the verges. The general litter is a continuous issue, with vandalism and graffiti also being contributing factors to the appearance of neglect.

### TRANSPORT

The daily bus service in Spalding runs 5 times a day plus 2 school bus runs on Mon – Friday and 3 times on a Saturday morning. It takes a circuit route through Spalding and is therefore within a few hundred metres for most dwellings. The timetable is aligned to support business hours and is unavailable evenings and most of the weekend. The infrequency of public transport in a suburb that lacks general facilities further compounds Spalding as being isolated.

Table provides a snapshot of social statistics for Spalding, against benchmarks with Greater Geraldton and the State.

Description	Spalding	Greater Geraldton	Western Australia
<p>Socio Economic Index of Disadvantage</p> <p>Notes - Socio Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) is a suite of indexes that have been created by the Australian Bureau of Statistics where 1000 is the national average and where the lower the score the more disadvantaged.</p>	860	977	1021
<p>Families Population % where six or more persons live in a family household</p> <p>Higher than average family sizes</p>	11.4%	8.5%	6.7%
<p>Children Population % under 15 years</p>	26.0%	23.9%	21.0%
<p>Aged Population % over 65 years</p>	11.6%	12.2%	12.3%
<p>Aboriginal Population % aboriginal persons</p>	22.1%	9.4%	3.0%
<p>Cultural diversity Population % birthplace is elsewhere than Australia</p>	16.6%	20.4%	37.1%
<p>Average Weekly Income Mean weekly income in dollars</p>	\$617	\$765	n/a
<p>Need for assistance Population % that have severe disability</p> <p>This variable identifies people who report a need for assistance due to a profound or severe disability</p>	4.6%	3.9%	3.5%

Description	Spalding	Greater Geraldton	Western Australia
Unemployed Population % looking for work	4.4%	2.9%	3.0%
Education Population % that completed year 12  Notes – Spalding is one of the lowest educated urbanised localities in the state with no schools.	20.4%	33.6%	47.8%
Qualifications Population % that have a Degree  Very low number with professional qualifications	2.2%	7.1%	14.1%
Rented housing Population % living in rented housing  High % rented housing	36.9%	29.9%	26.4%
Mortgaged Housing Population % living in mortgage housing	32.9%	36.9%	40.8%
Owned Housing Population % living in housing owned outright	19.3%	25.5%	24.5%