



Message from the CEO

I am pleased to present to you the 2023/24 rates brochure and budget highlights. Your continuous support enables us to share this important information with you.

This year, our rates have increased by 3.5%, ensuring a balanced approach to meet the evolving needs of our Shire. The minimum rate stands at \$1500 for most rate categories. Escalating costs have presented a significant challenge for our Shire. Over the past two years, the local government cost index has surged by 10.8%, with only a 5.2% increase in rates during the same period. Unfortunately, funding from State and Federal Governments in untied funds remains static. Similarly, recurring grant funding programs for our road network have remained unchanged over the past two financial years.

To address these challenges, we are committed to providing the same level of service with approximately 6% less funding from our rates, delivering an efficiency dividend. We have achieved reasonable success in securing grant income for projects, which will be rolled out this financial year, provided contractors are available. While grant funding is generally positive news, it has placed additional strain on our cash flows due to co-contributions. Consequently, discretionary funds for both Shire and community priorities are limited.

We are dedicated to ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of our Shire. Our team will continue working diligently to minimise any future rate increases, striving to keep them at an absolute minimum. Throughout the year, I eagerly anticipate providing you with updates on our progress.

Thank you for your unwavering support as we work together to create a prosperous future for our community.

Vernon Lawrence
Chief Executive Officer

Differential & Minimum Rating

Please refer to Shire Policy CP/FIN-3200 'Strategic Rating Policy' for further information regarding the Shire's rating principles and methodology.

	Advertised		Adopted	
	Rate in the Dollar	Minimum	Rate in the Dollar	Minimum
GRV Rating Categories				
Residential	0.1561	\$1,500	0.1539	\$1,500
Vacant	0.2421	\$1,500	0.2387	\$1,500
Commerical	0.1540	\$1,500	0.1518	\$1,500
Industrial	0.1497	\$1,500	0.1476	\$1,500
Rural Residential	0.1561	\$1,500	0.1539	\$1,500
UV Rating Categories				
Rural Residential	0.0141	\$1,500	0.0139	\$1,500
Pastoral	0.0599	\$1,500	0.0590	\$1,500
Commerical/ Industrial	0.0083	\$1,500	0.0082	\$1,500
Agriculture	0.0125	\$1,500	0.0123	\$1,500
Horticulture	0.0109	\$1,500	0.0108	\$1,500
Mining	0.2954	\$1,500	0.2911	\$1,500
Mining Exploration & Prospecting	0.1476	\$750	0.1455	\$750
Others	0.0071	\$1,500	0.0070	\$1,500

The adopted rates in the dollar differ from the advertised rates in the dollar for the following reasons:

- In developing the advertised rating model assumptions are made in relation to changes in property values expected in the annual UV revaluations from the Valuer General
- Following receipt of the annual UV revaluations and consideration of public submissions, the rate in the dollar was amended to ensure uniformity across all rating categories and to achieve the required total rates yield.

Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley

Rates 2023/24



Pensioner/Seniors

Pension Concession Card or Veteran Affairs Gold Card holders (TPI or War Widow) may claim a rebate on their main residence. New applications can be made by calling the Water Corporation on 13 13 85. Eligible individuals who received the rebate last year do not need to reapply; the rebate amount will be indicated on their Rates Notice.



Owners Occupiers Roll

The next local government ordinary elections will be held in October 2023. If you own a property in the Shire but do not live here or you operate a business in the Shire, you may be eligible for enrolling on the owner/occupier roll. For more information visit our website www.swek.wa.gov.au



Change of Postal Address or Property Ownership

It is the legal responsibility of property owners to inform the Shire about address changes, name changes, and if they wish to nominate an agent or tenant as the ratepayer. A Change of Name & Address form can be obtained from the Shire's website. Delays in mail or payments due to incorrect addresses are not accepted as excuses for late rate payments.



Emergency Services Levy (ESL)

The Emergency Services Levy (ESL) is a charge imposed by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and collected by Local Governments in Western Australia. The minimum ESL charge for 2023/24 is \$98.00. Interest on overdue ESL is charged at 11% per annum calculated daily. For more information, visit the DFES website at www.dfes.wa.gov.au



Landfills

The Kununurra and Wyndham Landfill sites accept domestic waste for free, which includes items suitable for kerbside bins. The Shire also offers free waste weekends in March and November for larger domestic items. Contact the Shire or visit our website www.swek.wa.gov.au for more details.



Waste Charges

The Waste Management charge is a "general rate and minimum payment" set by the Council during the Budget Adoption process. It amounts to \$200 annually for all properties. Additionally, there is a Waste Collection Service charge of \$356 per year for weekly collection or \$556 for exempt/non-rateable properties. Extra waste collection services cost \$556 per receptacle per year, inclusive of both the waste management and waste collection charges.

Project Update

Infrastructure

- Works are about to finish on the \$3.3M upgrades to Lake Argyle Road (Stage 4), delivered under a partnership with Main Roads.
- Design Works have been completed for Barytes Road in Wyndham and construction is anticipated to commence in mid-2024.
- Works have commenced on the Carlton Hill Road Stage 1 which will see the first section of the road sealed. This will be followed by the \$5.8 bridge replacement project next year

Airports

- East Kimberley Regional Airport Taxiway & Apron Upgrades - \$11M, works are well underway and will be completed prior to the end of 2023. The Shire is currently pursuing the next stage of the airport upgrades which will see the lengthening of the runway.
- The Shire has successfully negotiated the purchase of the Airbus infrastructure in Wyndham which includes workshops, accommodation/offices and other infrastructure.

Planning and Community Development

- The Kununurra Leisure Centre pool is currently awaiting additional funding from the State. Completion is scheduled in late 2025.
- Funding has been approved for new Change Rooms at the Clarrie Cassidy Oval in Wyndham and works will commence in 2023.

Payment Due Dates

Full Payment	Two Instalments	Four Instalments	Due Date
Single Payment	1st Instalment	1st Instalment	08 Sep 2023
		2nd Instalment	10 Nov 2023
	2nd Instalment	3rd Instalment	16 Feb 2024
		4th Instalment	19 Apr 2024

Ratepayers can choose any offered instalment option by paying the first instalment amount on or before the due date (08 September 2023). **If these options aren't suitable, you can request weekly, fortnightly, or monthly payment plans. Please contact the Rates Officer for details.**

Interest of 9% per annum applies to overdue balances (except for eligible pensioners and seniors) and is calculated daily. Ratepayers who qualify under Council Policy CP/FIN3220 Financial Hardship - Rates and Sundry debt and Eligible pensioners/seniors are exempt from penalty interest charges. **To receive your Rates notice via email, visit our website for Terms and Conditions and consent form.**

How can I pay my Rates?

Please consider the likely processing time when selecting a method of payment as Rate payments MUST be received by the Shire by the due date



In-person at the Kununurra or Wyndham Administration Offices



Pay using your credit card via our website (www.swek.wa.gov.au)



Contact your financial institution to make payment from your account, quoting Biller Code 102376 and the reference number on your rates notice

Detach the lower portion of your rates notice and make your cheque payable the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley