



Mr Vernon Lawrence
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley

Email: vernon.lawrence@swek.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Lawrence

SHIRE OF WYNDHAM EAST KIMBERLEY – DIFFERENTIAL RATES 2026/27

I refer to the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley's (Shire) application dated 29 May 2026 requesting approval to impose a differential general rate that is more than twice the lowest rate in the unimproved value (UV) category.

I advise that, under delegated authority from the Minister for Local Government and in accordance with section 6.33(3) of the *Local Government Act 1995* (Act), I have approved the Shire's application to impose differential general rates as follows:

Category of Rating	Rate in the dollar 2026/27
UV Pastoral	0.103769
UV Mining and Exploration	0.287480

The approval is valid for the 2026/27 financial year.

During the assessment process, a number of matters were identified where improvements are recommended to meet the Minister's Differential Rating Policy requirement and legislative provisions.

As recommended in your 2025/26 differential rate application, the Shire is to include a table of proposed rate-in-the-dollar (RID) values within its Statement of Objects and Reasons, together with appropriate supporting detail and justification. This will improve clarity and provide greater transparency for ratepayers.

Where the differential rates adopted vary from those advertised in the public notice, the Shire should include an accompanying note with its rates notice outlining the nature of, and reasons for, the variation.

This approval applies only to the above specified rates and amounts. Should the Shire propose any further amendments to these rates prior to final budget adoption, the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety must be consulted to confirm whether the approval remains valid.

It is also noted that publication timeframes associated with the *Kimberley Echo* limited the Shire's ability to achieve the full 21-day submission period. As a weekly publication issued on Thursdays, and noting that advertising cannot commence prior to 1 May, the Shire was constrained to place the notice in the next available edition, thereby reducing the available submission period.

To address this in future, the Shire should consider publishing notices in *The West Australian* or alternatively ensure that all public notices are published on the same day. This approach will better support compliance with statutory advertising requirements, including the provision of a full 21-day submission period.

As you would likely be aware, the Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licences) Bill 2026 (Amendment Bill) has passed both houses of Parliament and is expected to receive Royal Assent in late June 2026. The primary effect of the Amendment Bill is that Crown land subject solely to a miscellaneous licence or small prospecting licence between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2026, and going forward, is not to be treated as rateable under section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Following assent, local governments will be required to review and, where necessary, implement corrective measures for rate notices that apply from the 2017-18 financial year. This is to include updating rate records and making any relevant budgetary and reporting adjustments. In effect, all rates and liabilities issued in relation to miscellaneous licences and small prospecting licences on Crown land will be extinguished, and affected ratepayers will be entitled to refunds, which must be issued within 90 days.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Amy Walsh, General Manager, Local Government Financial Policy and Statutory Approvals at the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety on (08) 6552 1530 or by email to legislation@lgirs.wa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Lanie Chopping
DIRECTOR GENERAL
22 June 2026