



Department of  
**Local Government, Sport  
and Cultural Industries**

Our ref WE5-1#06; E2143502  
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Mr Vernon Lawrence  
Chief Executive Officer  
Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley  
PO Box 614  
Kununurra WA 6743

Dear Mr Lawrence

### **SHIRE OF WYNDHAM EAST KIMBERLEY – DIFFERENTIAL RATES 2021/22**

I refer to the Shire's application dated 04 June 2021 requesting approval to impose a differential general rate that is more than twice the lowest rate in the (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*, I have approved the Shire's application to impose differential general rates as follows:

<b>Category of Rating (UV/GRV)</b>	<b>Rate in the dollar 2020/21 (cents)</b>	<b>Rate in the dollar 2021/22 (cents)</b>
UV Mining	27.400	27.67
UV Exploration and Prospecting	13.690	13.83
UV Pastoral	5.7	5.7

The approval is valid for the 2021/22 financial year.

I am unable to approve the proposed rate in the dollar for the UV Rural Residential category (4.39 cents in the dollar) based on the information available to me.

The Shire is effectively seeking approval for a 400 per cent increase to the rate in the dollar for this category (from 2020/21) on the premise it will be issuing a concession to almost all ratepayers in this category so no one is contributing an increase of over one per cent from their previous rates bill. While the intention of this strategy is admirable, the widespread application of a concession in this manner is likely to be deemed invalid as it could be seen to be bypassing the valuation of land process, by which rates are determined. Further, the Shire would effectively be imposing a different rate in the dollar to what is being approved by the Department, under delegated authority.

I understand there has been significant abnormalities with the valuation process, but this will need to be addressed with the Valuer General and not through the proposed rating strategy. The Department would be keen to work with the Shire to look at alternative options, which may include a review of the method of valuation across properties to ensure the correct valuations are being applied.

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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Troy Hancock at the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, on 6552 1624 or by email to [legislation@dlgsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:legislation@dlgsc.wa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Fraser', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Fraser  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

29 June 2021