



Dear Ratepayer,

LETTER FROM THE SHIRE PRESIDENT – 2025-2026 SHIRE RATES

The Shire of Morawa adopted its Annual Budget on 29 August 2025.

The 2025-26 Annual Budget presented the usual challenges for the administration and Council. Whilst remaining lean and applying cost savings where possible, the Shire has had no choice but to apply modest increases in order to maintain services at its current standard.

To fund the Shire's operations and services at current standards, rates have increased by 4% across UV Rural, UV Mining and GRV townsite property areas. For UV properties, while the valuations for UV Properties have increased on average by 18.5%, the total UV rates levied will only be a 4% increase in total.

The Shire has also needed to increase Rubbish Removal Charges by 4% to cover the cost increases attributable to this service.

The Sewerage Levy has been significantly reduced following a review of the Shire's Sewerage Asset Management Plan. The review was undertaken during 2024/25 by an engineering consultant. Prior to this review there was a level of uncertainty on the sewerage asset's condition and estimated costs to maintain. The updated Sewerage Asset Management Plan has allowed the Shire to reduce the Sewerage Levy for all properties for 2025/26. The surplus collected from 2024/25 Sewerage Levies has been placed into the reserve to fund future maintenance and upgrades of the sewerage system.

Annual Rates Charges and Sewerage Levies are determined using GRV or UV valuations provided by Landgate. Landgate values all properties in Western Australia for rating and taxing purposes in accordance with the Valuation of Land Act 1978. Landgate valuers conduct independent and unbiased valuations of your property. These are Gross Rental Values (GRVs) and Unimproved Values (UVs). The GRV is calculated every 3 to 6 years, depending on the local government) and UV every year. Morawa GRV properties are unlikely to receive another valuation for 3 years, whereas the UV Rural property values will be reviewed again next financial year.

Any property owner who does not agree with their Gross Rental Value (GRV) or Unimproved Value (UV) may lodge an objection with Landgate (visit their website or contact their customer service team 08 9273 7373 for more information). Objections need to be lodged within 60 days of the date of issue of the Shire rates and be accompanied by the necessary justification documents.



Please note that even if you are lodging an objection to your property valuation, rates are still to be paid by the due date. Once a decision has been made by the Valuer General, Landgate will communicate any revised Gross Rental Value (GRV) or Unimproved Value (UV) changes to the Shire. The Shire would then adjust rates as applicable.

The Shire and Council are cognisant that the economy is tough and this year's increase in rates and other charges will significantly impact many of our ratepayers. Increases are not implemented frivolously, and the Shire has worked hard to manage its costs over the last four years. Any ratepayers experiencing payment difficulties are encouraged to contact the Shire office to discuss their situation and payment options available to them.

The Shire will be working during 2025-2026 to complete a number of key projects. The major project is the Morawa Child and Family Centre. Other projects include further widening of Morawa-Yalgoo Road and gravel re-sheeting to Norton, Malcolm, Olden and Collins Roads. In addition, works are proposed for Nanekine, Jones Lake and Krummel Roads and White Avenue. The Blackspot project at Evaside/Ross Road rail crossing will be completed following flora surveys of the location. The Tennis Courts are being resurfaced and Solomon Terrace works have been completed.

The Shire is looking forward to continuing to deliver projects and events across the District, and thanks the community for their continued support.

For more information, the Shire budget is available on the Shire website or in hard copy at the Shire library.

Yours sincerely,

Cr Karen Chappel AM
Shire President