



Dear Ratepayer,

LETTER FROM THE SHIRE PRESIDENT – 2026-2027 SHIRE RATES

Council adopted the 2026–2027 Annual Budget on 13 August 2026, following careful consideration of service delivery needs, financial sustainability, and community expectations. The Shire continues to operate leanly and pursue efficiencies wherever possible, with modest increases required to maintain current service levels and progress several major capital works.

Roads remain the community's highest priority, as confirmed in the recent community survey. The Shire has therefore committed to a strong program of road works for the year, including widening, gravel resheeting, and targeted upgrades across the district. These works represent a significant investment in maintaining safe and reliable transport links for our residents, businesses, and major ratepayers.

Rates for the financial year have increased by 4.5% across UV Rural, UV Mining and GRV townsite categories. This increase aligns with the Shires Strategic Resource Plan 2022-2037, regional trends, and reflects the rising cost of delivering essential services in a challenging economic environment. Rubbish Removal Charges have increased by 4%, while the Sewerage Levy remains unchanged.

Annual Rates Charges and Sewerage Levies continue to be determined using GRV and UV valuations provided independently by Landgate under the Valuation of Land Act 1978. Property owners who wish to object to their valuation may lodge an objection with Landgate within 60 days of the issue date of the rates notice.

The Shire is acutely aware of the financial pressures facing many households and businesses. Increases are not applied lightly, and ratepayers experiencing difficulty in meeting payments are encouraged to contact the Shire office to discuss available payment arrangements.

This financial year marks a significant period of investment in Morawa's future. Major capital building projects commencing this year include the Early Childhood Education and Care Centre, the Shire Works Depot redevelopment, construction of six key worker homes, and repairs to the administration centre. A substantial portion of these works is funded through external grants, and the Shire acknowledges the support of both the Federal Government and the State Government, who together have contributed the majority of funding.



To support delivery of the ECEC project, the Shire will borrow up to \$900,000, with borrowings to be undertaken through the Western Australian Treasury Corporation. This investment ensures that future generations, who will be the primary users of the facility, contribute to its long-term cost through a responsible, structured repayment plan.

This year also marks the first year of implementation of the Shire's Building Maintenance Ten-Year Program, endorsed by Council last financial year, which will support improved maintenance outcomes across Shire-owned facilities.

The Shire will continue its mouse bait provision program for residents in the new financial year, and is pleased to confirm that free access to the Morawa Swimming Pool will be introduced for the season, supporting community wellbeing and recreation. Council looks forward to progressing these important projects and continuing to deliver services and improvements that support the wellbeing and growth of our community. We thank all residents and ratepayers for their ongoing support. For more information, the Shire's Annual Budget is available on the Shire website or in hard copy at the Shire library.

Yours sincerely,

Cr Karen Chappel AM JP
Shire President