

# **MINUTES**

# SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Friday, 29 August 2025 at 9:00am

as

Shire of Morawa Council Chambers, 26 Winfield Street, Morawa



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29 August 2025

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL - MINUTES

#### DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL/ IMPARTIALITY/ PROXIMITY INTERESTS

Local Government Act 1995 – Section 5.65, 5.70 and 5.71 Local Government (Administration) Regulation 34

accordance with the reg		5, 5.70 and 5.71 of the	Interest in a matter in Local Government Act and
	ministration) Regulation	34C	
Name of person			
declaring the interest			
Position			
Date of Meeting			
Type of Meeting (Please circle one)		ommittee Meeting/ Sp genda Briefing/ Conf	pecial Council Meeting
Interest Disclosed			
Item Number and Title			
Nature of Interest			
Type of Interest (please circle one)	Financial	Proximity	Impartiality
Interest Disclosed			
Item Number and Title			
Nature of Interest			
Type of Interest (please circle one)	Financial	Proximity	Impartiality
Interest Disclosed			
Item Number and Title			
Nature of Interest			
Type of Interest (please circle one)	Financial	Proximity	Impartiality
Signature:	D	ate:	

# Important Note:

Should you declare a **Financial** or **Proximity** Interest, in accordance with the Act and Regulations noted above, you are required to leave the room while the item is being considered.

For an Impartiality Interest, you must state the following prior to the consideration of the item:

"With regard to agenda item (read item number and title), I disclose that I have an impartiality interest because (read your reason for interest). As a consequence, there may be a perception that my impartiality on the matter may be affected. I declare that I will consider this matter on its merits and vote accordingly."

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# Item 1 Opening of Meeting

The President to declare the meeting open at 9.00am.

### Item 2 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and Dignitaries

The President acknowledges the traditional custodians, the Yamatji people, and recognises the contribution of Yamatji Elder's past, present and future, in working together for the future of Morawa.

## Item 3 Recording of Attendance

#### 3.1 Attendance

#### Council - Electronic Attendance

President (Presiding Member) Councillor Karen Chappel Deputy President Councillor Ken Stokes Councillor Grant Chadwick Councillor Dean Clemson Councillor Debbie Collins

#### Council

Councillor Mark Coaker

#### Staff

Acting Chief Executive Officer Acting Executive Manager

Brad Douglas Stuart Taylor

#### Members of the Public

# 3.2 Apologies

Nil

#### 3.4 Approved Leave of Absence

Councillor Diana North

#### 3.5 Disclosure of Interests

Nil

# Item 4 Applications for Leave of Absence

Nil

# Item 5 Declaration by all Members to have given due consideration to All Matters Contained in the Business Paper before the Meeting

The Elected Members to declare that they had given due consideration to all matters contained in the agenda.

- President (Presiding Member) Councillor Karen Chappel
- Deputy President Councillor Ken Stokes
- Councillor Grant Chadwick
- Councillor Dean Clemson
- Councillor Debbie Collins

# Item 6 Reports from Officers

# 6.1 Adoption of the 2025-2026 Budget

Author: Executive Manager Corporate & Community Services

Authorising Officer: Acting Chief Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: The Author and Authorising Officer declare that they do not have any

conflicts of interest in relation to this item.

#### OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION

250807 Moved: Cr Stokes Seconded: Cr Clemson

That Council with respect to the adoption of the 2025-2026 Budget, Council considers the following:

#### 1. Budget Adoption

That Council adopts the 2025-2026 Budget as presented in Attachment 1 and in accordance with Section 6.2(1) of the Local Government Act 1995 and associated Financial Management Regulations 1997, with the following decision on specific elements of the budget:

#### a) Setting of Rates

Pursuant to sections 6.32, 6.33 and 6.35 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, adopt the proposed rates tabled below:

Rate Type	Rate in the Dollar (Cents)	Minimum Payment
GRV Residential / Commercial	9.1876	\$369
UV Rural	1.6570	\$369
UV Mining	30.0660	\$710

#### b) <u>Discount for Payment by Due Date</u>

That in accordance with section 6.46 of the *Local Government Act* 1995, a discount of 1.5% is to be offered if rates are paid in full by 4.30pm (Western Australian time) on 24 September 2025.

#### c) Rates Instalments, Payment Options and Penalty Interest

Apply an interest rate of 5.5% per annum to Rates and/or Charges that remain unpaid after becoming due and payable.

Impose an administration charge of \$10.00 per instalment and 0.0% simple interest to the amount on the rate notice where payment of the rates are made via the instalment option.

In accordance with Sections 6.50(2) and 6.50(3) the *Local Government Act 1995*, offer the following payment options:

#### Option 1

Pay the total amount of rates and charges included in the rate notice in full, less a 1.5% on time payment discount, by Monday 13 October 2025.

#### Option 2

Pay by four instalments as detailed on the rates notices with the following instalment dates:

- 4.30pm, Monday 13 October 2025 First instalment
- 4.30pm, Friday 12 December 2025 Second instalment
- 4.30pm, Tuesday 10 February 2026 Third instalment
- 4.30pm, Monday 13 April 2026 Final instalment

#### d) Concession – Assessment A315 – Morawa CWA

That Council allow a concession to be applied for the Sewerage fees on Assessment A315 – Dreghorn Street Morawa for the amount of \$1,125.00.

#### e) Concession – Assessment A185 – Morawa Craft Group

That Council allow a concession to be applied for the Sewerage fees on Assessment A185 – Valentine Street Morawa for the amount of \$1,125.00.

#### f) Reserve Funds

That Council allocate funds to and from the Reserve Accounts for the Financial Year Ending 30 June 2026 as specified in Note 8 Reserve Accounts on page 20 of the 2025-2026 Budget.

All reserve transfers have been allocated in accordance with the adopted Cash Reserves Management Policy – FIN10.

#### g) New Borrowings

That Council authorises the following new borrowings:

- a. Tennis Court Renewal \$220,000
- b. Morawa Child and Family Centre \$365,000
- c. Tennis Club Tennis Court Renewal Self Supporting Loan \$115,000

#### h) Elected Members Remuneration

In accordance with sections 5.98, 5.98A, and 5.99 of the Local Government Act 1995 Council endorse the provision of the 2025-2026 Elected Member Meeting Attendance allowance at \$8828 per annum, the Shire President Meeting Attendance allowance at \$17,653 per annum, the Shire President Office holder Allowance at \$18,760 per annum, and the Deputy President Office holder Allowance at \$4,691 per annum. Noting all allowances remain within thresholds prescribed under Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Determinations, and that the Shire has increased the allowances from those implemented in the 2024-2025 financial year by 3.5%.

#### i) Elected Member Superannuation

That Council does not provide superannuation to Elected Member Remuneration.

#### j) Schedule of Fees of Charges

That Council Adopts the Schedule of Fees and Charges as presented with the 2025-2026 Annual Budget.

A 4% increase has been applied to most charges excepting those that are Considered to be Community and those governed by statute. It is noted that rounding may change this percentage on some fees and charges. Private Works, Plant Hire and Material Sales charges have been increased to reflect the increased cost of service provision.

Sewerage levies and Rubbish Removal Charges are to be included on the Rates Notice as an annual charge for the provision of a core Shire services. Council acknowledges the significant reduction in the Sewerage levy.

This year Rubbish Removal Charges have been increased by 4%, this increase is aligned to costs attributed to service provisions in this area.

That Council directs the CEO to allow a transition and notice period relating to the new fees and charges, with new 2025-2026 fees and charges coming into effect from 1 September 2025, with the exception of Sewerage levies which are effective from 1 July 2025.

#### k) CEO Authorisations

That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to undertake the necessary and actions relating to the publication of the budget to members of the community, businesses and statutory government bodies

#### 2. Material Variances

That Council in accordance with the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* 34(5) adopt a variance percentage of plus or minus 10% or with a minimum value of \$20,000 for reporting on material variances for the 2025-2026 financial year.

**CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 6/0** 

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is for Council to adopt the Shire of Morawa 2025-2026 Annual Budget and Schedule of Fees and Charges as detailed in the presented format (*Attachment 1*).

#### **DETAIL**

It is a requirement of the Local Government Act and the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations that a Budget be adopted in the Australian Accounting Standards (AAS) format prior to 31 August each year. A copy must be submitted to the Executive Director of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries within 30 days of its adoption.

Council considered its Rates Model in June 2025 with a 4.0% increase to the minimum rates for GRV and UV, a 4.0% rate in the \$ increase for the rates and charges for GRV properties, and a 4.0% increase to the total rates levied from UV Rural properties and 4.0% increase to UV Mining for the 2025-2026 year. It is noted that while the valuations for UV Properties increase by 18.5%, the total rates levied will only be a 4% increase in total.

Subsequent to this the UV Mining Differential Rate has been advertised and accepted by the minister.

There are several components to the Budget to be adopted by Council and these are detailed below:

#### **Reporting Material Variances**

In accordance with the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, regulation 34(5), Council is required to adopt a percentage or value calculated in accordance with AAS5 to be used in statements of financial activity for reporting material variances.

The percentage or value that is adopted will require any variances over this figure to be reported in the Monthly Statement of Financial Activity.

It is proposed that Council adopt the percentage of 10% with a minimum value of \$20,000 for reporting material variances an increase on previous years but reflecting actual variance substance throughout the year for major accounts.

#### Rate Modelling

The overall yield from rates is expected to increase from the 2024-2025 budgeted figure by \$143,739 as shown in the table below.

2. RATES AND SERVICE CHA	RGES								
(a) Rating Information	Basis of valuation	Rate in dollar	flumber of properties	Rateable value*	2025/26 Budgeted rate revenue	2025/26 Budgeted interim rates	2025/26 Budgeted total revenue	2024/25 Actual total revenue	2024/25 Budget total revenue
Rate Description	Dasis of Valuation	Note in course	properties	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
(i) General rates GRV - Residential/Commercial UV Rural UV Mining	Gross Rental Valuations Unimproved Valuations Unimproved Valuations	0.091876 0.016570 0.300660	265 202 28	3,705,874 155,683,000 988,235	340,480 2,579,231 297,127	0 0	340,480 2,579,231 297,127	329,448 2,479,066 276,140	328,659 2,479,003 285,269
Total general rates		Minimum	632	160,377,109	3,216,838	0	3,216,838	3,084,654	3,093,13
(ii) Minimum payment GRV - Residential/Commercial UV Rural	Gross Rental Valuations Unimproved Valuations	\$ 369.00 369.00	44 11	26,840 133,538	16,236 4,059	0	16,236 4,059	15,975 3,905	15,620 3,905
UV Mining Total minimum payments	Unimproved Valuations	710.00	68	17,803 178,179	9,230 29,525	0	9,230 29,525	8,679 26,759	8.879 28,404
Total general rates and minimum	payments		700	160,555,288	3,246,363	0	3,246,363	3,113,413	3,121,535
(iii) Ex-gratia rates									
СВН	Tonnage	0.049484		247,150	12,230	0	12,230	0	10.66
Total ex-gratia rates			0	247,150	12,230	0	12,230	0	10,665
					3,258,593	0	3,258,593	3,113,413	3,132,20
Discounts (Refer note 2(g)) Rate write-offs							(37,000) (10,000)	(32,936) (12,621)	(37,000
Total rates					3,258,593	0	3,211,593	3,067,856	3,093,700
Instalment plan charges Instalment plan interest							1,500	2,190 6,697	1,500 5,300
Late payment of rate or service cha	rge interest					-	12,000 13,500	26,562 35,449	24,000 30,800
The Shire did not raise specified an	ea rates for the year ended 30th	June 2026.							
*Rateable Value at time of adopting	budget.								
All rateable properties within the dis									

#### Differential Rates

The Shire advertised the intention to impose a differential rate of 0.30066 cents in the \$ of Unimproved Value (UV) for Mining. No submissions were received and accordingly, Council submitted a request to the Minister seeking approval for the Differential rate to be applied to the UV Mining Category.

Ministerial approval was subsequently received on Thursday 21 August 2025 (Attachment 2).

#### Other Rates Items

The following interest rates and administration charges be considered:

- The full payment discount of 1.5%.
- The interest rate on all rates and charges that are overdue be set at 5.5%.
- Instalment plans to comprise of interest charged at 0.0% pa, calculated from the due date the first instalment is due, together with and administration fee of \$10.00 for each instalment notice.

#### **Due Dates**

The due date for payment of rates needs to be set at a minimum of 35 days after the date of issue in accordance with Section 6.5(2) of the *Local Government Act 1995*. The instalment due dates are then at intervals of at least 2 months with the first falling due 35 days after the date of issue of the rates notice in accordance with Section 62(2) of the *Financial Management Regulations 1996*.

Due dates for instalment options:

- 4.30pm, Monday 13 October 2025 First instalment
- 4.30pm, Friday 12 December 2025 Second instalment
- 4.30pm, Tuesday 10 February 2026 Third instalment
- 4.30pm, Monday 13 April 2026 Final instalment

#### **Annual Charges**

In accordance with Section 67 of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007 (WARR Act)* the refuse collection service Council provides to ratepayers has increased by 4% from \$570.00 to \$593.00 per annum for residential services, based on a once a week pick-up and \$1,186.00 per annum for commercial properties based on twice weekly pick-up.

Sewerage levy Rate in the Dollar has been reduced significantly with an overall reduction of \$96,130 for 2025-2026 and are as follows:

#### Class 1 Properties

1st Major fixture
Each Additional Fixture
\$1,125.00 (No change)
(No Change)

Vacant Land \$300.00 per assessment (No Change)

GRV Residential 5.8760 cents in the dollar GRV Commercial 5.8760 cents in the dollar Minimum Charges – residential \$407.11 (No Change) Minimum Charge – Commercial \$958.03 (No Change)

During 2024/25 the Shire of Morawa engaged an engineering consultant to review and update the Shire of Morawa Sewerage Asset Management Plan. Prior to this there was a level of

uncertainly 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. The surplus from 2024/25 Sewerage Levies has been placed into the reserve to fund future maintenance and upgrades of the sewerage system.

#### Loan Fund/Debt Servicing

The below lists the Shire's borrowings and interest between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.

#### 7. BORROWINGS

(b) N	ew	Mottod	ings .	2025/26
513				11

Particulars/Purpose	Institution	Loan type	Term (years)	Interest rate	Amount borrowed budget	Total interest & charges	Amount used budget	Balance unspent
				%	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Tennis Court Renewal</b>	WATC	Debenture	10	4.4694%	115,000	30,117	115,000	0
Tennis Court Renewal	WATC	Debenture	10	4.5774%	220,000	56,645	220,000	0
Early Childhhod and Family Centre	WATC	Debenture	10	4.5774%	365,000	93,979	365,000	0
6					700,000	180,741	700,000	0

INFORMATION ON BORROWINGS AND LEASE FINANCING
Debenture Repayments

Dobomaro nopaymonto									
					Principal 1-Jul-25	New Loans	Principal Repayments		antee Fee
	Loan			Interest		2025/26	2025/26		25/26
Particulars	Finishes	Lender	Loan No.	Rate		Budget \$	Budget \$	В	udget \$
Education and Welfare		3011		Teller					
Early Childhood and Family Centre - New Building	18/07/2035	WATC	143	4.5774%	0.00	365,000.00	14,595.17		2,390.00
Recreation and culture					VHOYE.		kg in m		
Self Supporting Loan - Tennis Club - Court Renewal	30/06/2035	WATC	141	4.4694%	0.00	115,000.00	9,371.90		805.00
Tennis Courts Renewal Project	18/07/2035	WATC	142	4.5774%	0.00	220,000.00	8,797.09		1,441.00
					0.00	700,000,00	32,764.16		4,636.00
All borrowing repayments will be financed by general	purpose reve	enue.					,/01120		55,928.87

Repayments for all New Loans will reduce discretionary funding by \$55,928.87 this financial year

#### **Elected Members Meeting Fees and Allowances**

As per the Shire's historical practice, it has once again been proposed that Council adopt an annual fee for Council Members in lieu of fees for attending meetings as per 5.99 of the Local Government Act.

The annual fee for Council Members has been set at \$8,528, with the Shire President annual fee in lieu of fees for attending meetings set at \$17,653, these payments have been increased by 3.5% in accordance with the parameters of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal.

Under sections 5.98(5) and 5.98A, Council pays an annual allowance for Councillors who hold the officer of Shire President and Deputy President. The Shire President office holder allowance is \$18,126, and the Shire Deputy President office holder allowance is \$4,532 – set at 25% of the President allowance as per the State Administrative Tribunal Determination aligned to section 5.98A of the Local Government Act 1995. The Shire President office holder allowance and the Deputy President Office Holder allowance have also increased by 3.5%.

Full details can be found on page 22 of the Budget document.

#### Reserves

The full list of reserve balances and budgeted movements can be found on page 20 of the Budget document. The budget allows for spending of \$1,118,409 from the reserve with transfers in of \$987,717 with the total reserve end of year closing balance of \$7,610,105

#### **Capital Works and Major Projects**

The Shire of Morawa would like to acknowledge the Federal Government for its ongoing support through the Financial Assistance Grants (FAG), the Roads to Recovery Grants (R2R), and the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCIP). Without these funding opportunities supporting our budget each year, the Shire would not be able to meet the aspirations of our community, as set out in the Shire of Morawa's Strategic Community Plan.

The Shire would also like to thank the Western Australia Government which annually provides support through its Regional Roads Group (RRG) contributions which support Council in providing essential roads infrastructure for the Shire residents and businesses and also makes other Ad Hoc grants available throughout the year for Shire applications.

Below is a list of some of the major projects and works for the 2025-2026 financial year.

			Source of Funds								
Projects	Budget 2025-2028	C	Grants/ Conributions		Loans	Reserves	100	Sale of Assets	N	Aunicipa Funds	
Buildings & Recreation	FREE STATE										
CCTV Upgrade	\$ 30,00	0							\$	30,000	
Early Childhood Centre	\$ 3,700,00	0 5	2,967,388	\$	365,000	\$ 367,612			\$	_	
Allocation for all Staff Housing Renewal	\$ 198,00	0					1		\$	198,000	
New Koolanooka Springs Public Toilets	\$ 20,00	0							\$	20,000	
Solomon Terrace Stage 2	\$ 125,37	0 9	125,370						\$	-	
Interim Depot Construction Works	\$ 50,00										
Town Hall and Old Chambers	\$ 134,00		50,000						\$	84,000	
Recreation Centre Renewals	\$ 82,00	0							\$	82,000	
Office Upgrade	\$ 280,00								\$	280,000	
Tennis Club Resurfacing	\$ 650,00		315,000	\$	335,000				\$	_	
Tennis Courts Refencing	\$ 56,00			7		\$ 56,000			\$	-	
	\$ 5,325,37		\$ 3,457,758	\$	700,000	\$423,612	\$		S	694,000	
Infrastructure		PEG P	CHESTISE	1		THE RESERVE			100		
RRG Morawa-Yalgoo Road	\$ 450,00	0 9	300,000						\$	150,000	
RRG Morawa-Yalgoo Road	\$ 450,00	-							\$	150,000	
RRG Nanekine Rd - Widen and Seal	\$ 511,22								\$	270,083	
RRG Nanekine Rd - Widen and Seal	\$ 450,00	10-1-							\$	270,000	
BSP Evaside Road	\$ 537,00								\$	179,000	
R2R-Norton Road	\$ 165,87								\$	-	
R2R-Malcolm Road	\$ 274,00								\$	_	
R2R-Olden Road	\$ 74,52								\$	_	
R2R-Collins Road	\$ 145,68								\$	_	
R2R-Jones Lake Road	\$ 211,72								\$	_	
R2R-Krummel Road	\$ 50,99								\$	_	
R2R-Broad Avenue	\$ 51,85								\$		
Sewerage Ponds Improvements	\$ 50,00		01,007			\$ 50,000			\$		
Sewerage Ponds Plant & Equipment	\$ 25,00					\$ 25,000			\$		
Broad and Gill Street Footpath	\$ 125,00		61,500			φ 25,000			\$	63,500	
Prater Street Footpath	\$ 135,00								\$	67,223	
ridiersheer rootpani	\$ 3,707,88		2,483,078	\$		\$ 75,000	\$			1,149,806	
Plant and Equipment	<b>Q</b> 0,101,00		2,400,010	Ť	300000	<b>4</b> 70,000	Y		,	1,147,000	
New Iveco Truck	\$ 450,00	0				\$ 370,000	\$	80,000	\$	-	
New Street Sweeper (carryover)	\$ 235,60					4 0, 0,000	Ψ	50,500	\$	235,600	
MWS Vehicle	\$ 60,00					\$ 20,000	\$	40,000	\$	200,000	
EMCCS V ehicle	\$ 60,00					\$ 20,000	\$	40,000	\$	_	
CDO Vehicle	\$ 38,00					\$ 8,000	\$	30,000		_	
obe venicio	\$ 843,60			\$		\$418,000		190,000	\$	235,600	
TOTALS	\$ 9,876,85	1 5	5,940,836	\$	700,000	\$916,612	\$	190,000	\$2	2,079,406	

#### LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

**Very High** – Adoption of the budget will enable Council to provide the necessary services and facilities to ratepayers and residents, delaying adoption may cause regulatory non-compliance.

#### CONSULTATION

This year has seen several workshops and consultation to ensure adequate endorsement by Council. The following engagement has taken place in the development of the 2025-2026 financial year budget:

- Various management team meetings in May, June and July 2025;
- · Council workshops;

 Presentation of the Statement of Objective and Reasons and Budget Efficiency and setting of the Differential Rates presented to Council in a Special Council Meeting in June 2025.

Based on the extensive level of consultation undertaken, the administration hopes Council is comfortable to commit to the projects and services delivery as presented in the statutory budget.

#### LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Local Government Act 1995:

• s 6.2(1), 6.12(1), 6.16, 6.32, 6.45(3), 6.50 & 6.51

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996:

Regulations 68 and 70

#### FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

The statutory budget contains the expected expenditure, revenue, capital projects and services delivery by Shire staff to the community. The details can be found in the attached Budget document and forms the basis of the operations for the 2025-2026 financial year.

The Shire administration aims to undertake at least two budget reviews each year to review the accuracy of budgeting and account for known changes, this practice works to ensure financial information remains current as the financial year progresses.

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

The ability for the Shire to undertake the work identified in this budget will rely on effective and successful collection of rates and revenue levied and identified; and the allocation of suitable resources with which to achieve the programs outlined in both the Operational and Capital sections of the Budget document. A significant risk to the Shire achieving the budget expectations in the current economic climate is the ongoing availability of contractors and workforce to deliver both operational and capital outputs within planned timeframes at a reasonable cost. At this stage, this is a risk to most organisations when adopting their budgets under current economic and labour market constraints.

#### CONCLUSION

That after due consideration to all areas of Council's operations and services, that the Annual Budget including statutory statements and schedule of fees and charges (*Attachment 1*) suitably reflects Council's financial commitments for the financial year 2025-2026 for the Shire of Morawa.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – 6.1a Statutory Annual Budget 2025-2026 including Fees and Charges Attachment 2 – 6.1b Ministerial Approval Letter for Differential Rates

# Item 7 New Business of an Urgent Nature

Nil

Item 8 Matters for Which the Meeting May Be Closed (Confidential Items)

Nil

# Item 16 Closure

There being no further business, the President to declare the meeting closed at 09.10am.

Lauplepu!

Presiding Member.....

