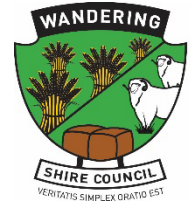


Notice of Meeting



22 Watts Street Wandering WA 6308
Telephone: (08) 6828 1800
reception@wandering.wa.gov.au

Dear Elected Member

The next Ordinary meeting of the Shire of Wandering will be held on Thursday 21 August 2025 in the Council Chambers commencing at 3.30pm.

Schedule

3.30pm Ordinary Council Meeting

Dr. Alistair Pinto
Chief Executive Officer

15 August 2025

DISCLAIMER

No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Shire of Wandering for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council or Committee meetings or during formal/informal conversations with staff. The Shire of Wandering disclaims any liability for any loss whatsoever and howsoever caused arising out of reliance by any person or legal entity on any such act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council or Committee meetings or discussions. Any person or legal entity that act or fails to act in reliance upon any statement does so at the person's or legal entity's own risk.

In particular and without derogating in any way from the broad disclaimer above, in any discussion regarding any planning application or application for a licence, any statement or limitation of approval made by a member or officer of the Shire of Wandering during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not taken as notice of approval from the Shire of Wandering. The Shire of Wandering warns that anyone who has an application lodged with the Shire of Wandering must obtain and only should rely on WRITTEN CONFIRMATION of the outcome of the application, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Shire of Wandering in respect of the application.

AGENDA

Shire of Wandering
Ordinary Council Meeting
21 August 2025

OUR VISION

Wandering is a community of responsible, resilient and adaptable residents thriving in our scenic, economically diverse environment.

DISCLAIMER

INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC ATTENDING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Please Note:

The recommendations contained in this agenda are officers' recommendations only and should not be acted upon until Council has resolved to adopt those recommendations.

The resolutions of Council should be confirmed by perusing the minutes of the Council meeting at which these recommendations were considered.

Members of the public should also note that they act at their own risk if they enact any resolution prior to receiving official written notification of Council's decision.

Meeting Procedures:

1. All Council meetings are open to the public, except for matter raised by Council under "confidential items".
2. Members of the public may ask a question at an ordinary Council Meeting under "public question time".
3. Members of the public who are unfamiliar with meeting procedures are invited to seek advice at the meeting. If unsure about proceeding, just raise your hand when the presiding member announces public question time.
4. All other arrangements are in accordance with the Council's policies and decision of the Shire of Wandaring.

Council Meeting Information:

Your Council generally handles all business at Ordinary or Special Council Meetings.

From time to time Council may form a Committee to examine subjects and then report back to Council.

Generally all meetings are open to the public; however, from time to time Council will be required to deal with personal, legal and other sensitive matters under "confidential items". On those occasions Council will generally close that part of the meeting to the public. Every endeavour will be made to do this as the last item of business of the meeting.

Public Question Time. It is a requirement of the *Local Government Act 1995* to allow at least fifteen (15) minutes for public question time following the opening and announcements at the beginning of the meeting. Should there be a series of questions the period can be extended at the discretion of the presiding member.

Written notice of each question should be given to the Chief Executive Officer fifteen (15) minutes prior to the commencement of the meeting. A summary of each question and the response is included in the meeting minutes.

When a question is not able to be answered at the Council Meeting a written answer will be provided after the necessary research has been carried out. Council staff will endeavour to provide the answers prior to the next ordinary meeting of Council.

Councillors may from time to time have a financial interest in a matter before Council. Councillors must declare an interest and the extent of the interest in the matter on the Agenda. However, the Councillor can request the meeting to declare the matter trivial, insignificant or in common with a significant number of electors or ratepayers. The Councillor must leave the meeting whilst the matter is discussed and cannot vote unless those present agree as above.

Members of staff, who have delegated authority from Council to act on certain matters, may from time to time have a financial interest in a matter on the Agenda. The member of staff must declare that interest and generally the presiding member of the meeting will advise the Officer if he/she is to leave the meeting.

Agendas, including an Information Bulletin, are delivered to Councillors within the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1995*, i.e. seventy-two (72) hours prior to the advertised commencement of the meeting. Whilst late items are generally not considered there is provision on the Agenda for items of an urgent nature to be considered.

Should an elector wish to have a matter placed on the Agenda the relevant information should be forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer in time to allow the matter to be fully researched by a Shire Officer. An Agenda item, including a recommendation, will then be submitted to Council for consideration. The Agenda closes the Friday week prior to the Council Meeting (i.e. ten (10) days prior to the meeting).

The Information Bulletin produced as part of the Agenda includes items of interest and information, which does not require a decision of Council.

Agendas for Ordinary Meetings are available at the Shire of Wandering Office and on the Shire website seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting and the public are invited to view a copy at the Shire Office.

Agenda items submitted to Council will include a recommendation for Council consideration. Electors should not interpret and/or act on the recommendations until after they have been considered by Council. Please note the Disclaimer in the Agenda (page 2).

Public Inspection of Unconfirmed Minutes (Regulation 13).

A copy of the unconfirmed Minutes of Ordinary and Special Meetings will be available for public inspection from the Shire of Wandering Office and the Shire of Wandering website within ten (10) working days after the Meeting.

Dr. Alistair Pinto
Chief Executive Officer

SHIRE OF WANDERING

Agenda for the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held in the Council Chambers on Thursday 21 August 2025 commencing at 3.30pm.

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1. Declaration of Opening / Announcements of Visitors

The Presiding Member to declare the meeting open.

2. Attendance / Apologies / Approved Leave of Absence

Councillors

Cr Sheryl Little	(President) (Presiding Member)
Cr Alan Price	(Deputy Shire President)
Cr Lou Cowan	
Cr Gillian Hansen	
Cr Dennis Jennings	
Cr Ian Turton	
Cr Max Watts	

Staff

Alistair Pinto	(Chief Executive Officer)
Karl Mickle	(Operations Manager)
Lisa Boddy	(Executive Assistant)

Apologies

Members of the Public

3. Announcements by the Presiding Member

4. Response to Previous Public Questions Taken on Notice

Nil.

5. Public Question Time

6. Petitions / Deputations / Presentations / Submissions

7. Applications for Leave of Absence

8. Disclosures of Interest

9. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings Held

9.1 Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes – 17 July 2025

Statutory Environment:

Section 5.22 of the *Local Government Act* provides that minutes of all meetings are to be kept and submitted to the next ordinary meeting of the Council or the committee, as the case requires, for confirmation.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 17 July 2025 be confirmed as true and correct.

Moved: _____

Seconded: _____

Carried

For/Against: Cr Little ☐ Cr Price ☐ Cr Cowan ☐ Cr Hansen ☐ Cr Jennings ☐ Cr Turton ☐ Cr Watts ☐

10. Reports of Committees of Council

Nil.

11. Reports from Councillors

Cr Sheryl Little (President)

Cr Alan Price (Deputy President)

Cr Lou Cowan

Cr Gillian Hansen

Cr Dennis Jennings

Cr Ian Turton

Cr Max Watts

12. Chief Executive Officer

12.1 Shire of Wandering Policy Manual Review – Policy 30 and Policy 83

File Reference:	11.111.11101
Author:	Lisa Boddy, Executive Assistant
Authorising Officer	Dr Alistair Pinto, Chief Executive Officer
Date:	11 August 2025
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Policy 30 Use of Shire Facilities and Property Policy 83 Policy Manual
Previous Reference:	Item 12.1 Ordinary Council Meeting 17 October 2024

Summary:

To continue with the process of reviewing all Council policies to ensure they are still relevant and correct for the day to day workings of the Shire.

Background:

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 18 August 2022 Council resolved to adopt Policy 83 – Policy Manual which states that:

All policies within the Policy Manual are to be reviewed by Council every three years, being one third of Council's policies each year in a three year period. Council may review an individual policy at any time before the next review date if it determines it to be necessary.

There are currently 94 Shire policies. It is proposed that each month policies are reviewed by Council. This will ensure that all policies are reviewed in the stated three year period.

Comment:

Two policies are to be reviewed this month:

- Policy 30 – Use of Shire Facilities and Property
- Policy 83 – Policy Manual

This policy was presented to the General Planning Forum on 7 August 2025. No changes were made to either policy.

Consultation:

Chief Executive Officer
Elected Members

Statutory Environment:

Local Government Act 1995 S.2.7(2)(b)

Policy Implications:

As reviewed.

Financial Implications:

Nil.

Strategic Implications:
Provide Strong Leadership

Our Goals	Our Strategies
A well informed Community	Foster Opportunities for connectivity between Council and the Community
We plan for the future and are strategically focused	Ensure accountable, ethical and best practice governance Service Level Plans detail operational roles, responsibilities and resources.

Sustainability Implications:

- Environmental: There are no known significant environmental considerations.
- Economic: There are no known significant economic considerations.
- Social: There are no known significant social considerations.

Risk Implications:

Not regularly updating the Shire's Policy manual poses a reputable risk with a medium risk rating. In order to maintain transparency and to facilitate appropriate decision making processes, it is imperative that policy statements reflect the current position of Council and work practices at the Shire as well as best practice approaches.

Risk	Medium (6)
Risk Likelihood (based on history and with existing controls)	Possible (3)
Risk Impact / Consequence	Minor (2)
Risk Rating (Prior to Treatment or Control)	Medium (6)
Principal Risk Theme	Medium (6)
Risk Action Plan (Controls or Treatment Proposed)	Medium (6)

Risk Matrix:

Consequence Likelihood		Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
		1	2	3	4	5
Almost Certain	5	Medium (5)	High (10)	High (15)	Extreme (20)	Extreme (25)
Likely	4	Low (4)	Medium (8)	High (12)	High (16)	Extreme (20)
Possible	3	Low (3)	Medium (6)	Medium (9)	High (12)	High (15)
Unlikely	2	Low (2)	Low (4)	Medium (6)	Medium (8)	High (10)
Rare	1	Low (1)	Low (2)	Low (3)	Low (4)	Medium (5)

A risk is often specified in terms of an event or circumstance and the consequences that may flow from it. An effect may be positive, negative or a deviation from the expected and may be related to the following objectives; occupational health and safety, financial, service interruption, compliance, reputation and environment. A risk matrix has been prepared and a risk rating of six (6) has been determined for this item. Any items with a risk rating over 10 (considered to be high or extreme risk) will be added to the Risk Register to ensure Local Government Act and Regulations compliance.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Officer Recommendation:

That Council adopts the following policy with any amendments made.

- Policy 30 – Use of Shire Facilities and Property
- Policy 83 – Policy Manual

Moved: _____

Seconded: _____

Carried

For/Against: Cr Little ☐ Cr Price ☐ Cr Cowan ☐ Cr Hansen ☐ Cr Jennings ☐ Cr Turton ☐ Cr Watts ☐

POLICY TYPE:	GOVERNANCE AND COUNCIL MEMBERS
DATE ADOPTED:	18/07/2019

POLICY NO:	30
DATE LAST REVIEWED:	17/09/2020 16/09/2021 18/08/2022

LEGAL (PARENT):	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i>
------------------------	----------------------------------

LEGAL (SUBSIDIARY):	
----------------------------	--

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY APPLICABLE:	
--	--

DELEGATION NO.	
-----------------------	--

ADOPTED POLICY	
TITLE:	Use of Shire Facilities and Property
OBJECTIVE:	To provide a framework for the hire and use of community facilities (hereby referred to as "facilities") and parks and reserves (hereby referred to as "reserves") across the Shire of Wandering.

DEFINITIONS

Chief Executive Officer - Where the Chief Executive Officer is mentioned in this policy it means the Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Wandering.

Casual Hirers - Casual hirers are those users of the Shire's facilities and/or reserves that hire for a one-off specific event or intermittent and/or irregular meetings during any given year to a maximum of 5 sessions per year.

Service Clubs, Charitable Institutions and Emergency Service Organisations - Charitable institutions are those organisations recognised as licensed charities by the Charitable Collections Advisory Committee and officially listed by the Ministry of Fair Trading in their listing of licensed charities in Western Australia. Service Clubs are defined as those organisations where members may volunteer to perform community services and where these activities form a principal part of the organisation's objectives and goals. Funds raised by these groups, to be eligible under this Service Club definition, must be donated to a charitable cause and/or research designed to improve standards and overall quality of life.

Examples of service clubs include Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, and Apex Clubs. Specific emergency service organisations included in this definition are the State Emergency Service and volunteer Bushfire Brigades.

Facilities - Facilities are defined, for the purposes of this policy, as multipurpose community and recreation

Reserves - Reserves are defined as all those areas under the Shire's control set aside for passive recreation and sporting activities. This definition includes parks, active reserves, sport grounds and other passive reserves.

Commercial User Groups - A commercial user group is one, which is a registered business with the Ministry of Fair Trading and results in private pecuniary gain (i.e. income generation & profit). Those user groups deemed to be of a commercial nature would be charged the commercial fee for all use of the Shire's facilities.

Community User Groups - A community user group is defined as a non-profit organisation and shall include, but is not limited to sporting clubs (that are incorporated under the Associations Incorporations Act), stated not-for profit community groups, religious groups, education institutions and groups that have a focus on community needs with a social benefit. This definition also applies to private bookings such as weddings, birthday parties, christenings etc. Those groups deemed to be of a community nature would be charged the community fee for use of the Shire's facilities.

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy applies to the hire of facilities and reserves throughout the Shire for events, activities or functions that are deemed to fall within the existing capacity of the venue involved or of a nature that falls within the normal operations of the facility or reserve. All other events, activities and functions shall be referred to the Council and may be subject to the provisions of other Shire policies.

This policy **DOES NOT APPLY** to:

- (a) Shire Administration Centre, Wandering
- (b) Any facility throughout the Shire currently under a lease/licence agreement with a specific organisation/s.

Fees and Charges

Fees and charges applicable to all community facilities and reserves defined in this policy will be in accordance with the Schedule of Fees and Charges adopted by Council annually as part of the budget and amended from time to time.

Bonds applicable to facility and reserve hire

A refundable bond, subject to conditions, will be payable on any and all hire of facilities and reserves.

Storage and consumption of alcohol at community facilities and reserves

Consumption of alcohol

Any club/group or individual wishing to hold an event, activity or function at the Shire's facilities or reserves which involve the consumption of alcohol by attendees must apply in writing for approval prior to the activity, event or function.

Sale of Alcohol

Any club/group or individual wishing to hold an event, activity or function at the Shire's facilities or reserves which involve the sale of alcohol to attendees must apply in writing for approval prior to the activity, event or function.

Approval for the sale of alcohol will only be considered for those clubs/groups or individuals, which have been granted either an Occasional, Club or Club Restricted Liquor License from the Office of Racing and Gaming (Liquor Licensing Division).

Storage of Alcohol

The storage of alcohol is NOT PERMITTED at any of the Shire's facilities, outside the booking time, that are multipurpose in nature and defined in this policy.

Restricted/Unrestricted Liquor Licenses

Any club/group or individual wishing to have a regular restricted liquor licence at the Shire's facilities or reserves must apply in writing for approval.

Any club/group or individual wishing to have an unrestricted Club Licence at the Shire's facilities or reserves must apply in writing for approval.

CONDITIONS OF HIRE

Conditions of Hire forms as noted in this policy shall be made available to all prospective hirers when booking enquiries are made and signed by the prospective hirer prior to the function, event or activity date.

Conditions of Hire forms outline:

- (a) Blocking Booking and Booking Usage
- (b) Bonds
- (c) Cancellations, refunds and tentative bookings
- (d) Cleaning
- (e) Ground Maintenance and Marking
- (f) Damage
- (g) Decorations and equipment
- (h) Events
- (i) Hired Area
- (j) Liability
- (k) Liquor
- (l) Noise
- (m) Payments
- (n) Security
- (o) Subsidised use

SPECIFIC BOOKINGS TAKING PRIORITY

Bookings for fixtures, including finals must be made by individual clubs prior to the commencement of their season, and must be for the current playing season only.

All other bookings made prior to seasonal fixtures bookings take precedence and the hirer will be granted exclusive use of the facility for the hire period;

OTHER

In all cases, the Shire reserves the right, at its discretion, to refuse entry or subsidised use of a facility or reserve to an individual or group.

POLICY TYPE:	GOVERNANCE AND COUNCIL MEMBERS
DATE ADOPTED:	18 August 2022

POLICY NO: 83
DATE LAST REVIEWED: N/A

LEGAL (PARENT):	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i>
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LEGAL (SUBSIDIARY):

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY APPLICABLE:
--

DELEGATION NO.

ADOPTED POLICY	
TITLE:	Policy Manual
OBJECTIVE:	The objective of this policy is to maintain an up to date record of the various policies of Council.

POLICY STATEMENT

- 1.1 Additions, deletions or alterations to Council Policy Statements shall only be made by specific Council resolution stating:
 - the current Council Policy number if an amendment or deletion
 - the proposed policy number to clearly indicate functional area if a new Council Policy, and
 - proposed wording and justification for the amendment, deletion or adoption.
- 1.2 All policies within the Policy Manual are to be reviewed by Council every three years, being one third of Council's policies each year in a three year period. Council may review an individual policy at any time before the next review date if it determines it to be necessary.

12.2 Draft Community Benefits Guidelines for Renewable Energy Projects

File Reference:	04.041.04113
Author:	Dr. Alistair Pinto, Chief Executive Officer
Authorising Officer	Dr. Alistair Pinto, Chief Executive Officer
Date:	18 September 2025
Disclosure of Interest:	N/A
Attachments:	Draft Guideline on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Projects - Consultation Paper WALGA Joint LGA submission - Powering WA Community Benefits Guideline 25 July 2025
Previous Reference:	N/A

Summary:

The Draft Community Benefits Guideline for Renewable Energy Projects was recently released by the WA Government through Powering WA. This consultation paper outlines proposed frameworks to ensure that host communities derive meaningful and lasting benefits from renewable energy developments.

Background:

The guideline aims to support equitable outcomes for regional communities, improve investor certainty and reduce delays in project delivery. It has been developed following extensive engagement with stakeholders including local governments, industry bodies, and community representatives. The WA Government is receiving feedback, on the consultation paper until 5:00pm AWST, 18 August 2025, via the Powering WA website.

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) is preparing a joint submission on behalf of Local Governments (LG's) across the state. Several Wheatbelt LG's have come together to provide feedback towards the WALGA submission. This submission reflects the collective views and priorities Wheatbelt LG's and provides a strong, unified voice in shaping the final guideline.

Comment:

It would be beneficial for the Shire of Wandering to have a Council adopted position on these guidelines and to either provide feedback independently or to join other LGA's in making a joint submission.

Consultation:

Consultation was undertaken with Council at the August General Planning Forum held on 7 August 2025.

Statutory Environment:

No impact.

Policy Implications:

No impact.

Financial Implications:

No impact.

Strategic Implications:

Provides a clear strategic stance of the Shire's adopted position in relation to these draft guidelines.

Sustainability Implications:

- Environmental: There are no known significant environmental considerations
- Economic: There are no known significant economic considerations
- Social: There are no known significant social considerations

Risk Implications:

Risk	Medium (6)
Risk Likelihood (based on history and with existing controls)	Possible (3)
Risk Impact / Consequence	Minor (2)
Risk Rating (Prior to Treatment or Control)	Medium (6)

Risk Matrix:

Consequence Likelihood		Insignificant 1	Minor 2	Moderate 3	Major 4	Catastrophic 5
Almost Certain	5	Medium (5)	High (10)	High (15)	Extreme (20)	Extreme (25)
Likely	4	Low (4)	Medium (8)	High (12)	High (16)	Extreme (20)
Possible	3	Low (3)	Medium (6)	Medium (9)	High (12)	High (15)
Unlikely	2	Low (2)	Low (4)	Medium (6)	Medium (8)	High (10)
Rare	1	Low (1)	Low (2)	Low (3)	Low (4)	Medium (5)

A risk is often specified in terms of an event or circumstance and the consequences that may flow from it. An effect may be positive, negative or a deviation from the expected and may be related to the following objectives; occupational health and safety, financial, service interruption, compliance, reputation and environment. A risk matrix has been prepared and a risk rating of 6 has been determined for this item. Any items with a risk rating over 10 (considered to be high or extreme risk) will be added to the Risk Register.

Voting Requirements:

Absolute Majority

Officer Recommendation:

That Council endorses the Joint Local Government Submission on behalf of Country Local Governments Renewables Alliance and authorises the CEO, on behalf of Council, to add the Shire of Wandering as the thirty second (32) local government supportive of this joint submission.

Moved: _____

Seconded: _____

Carried

For/Against: Cr Little ☐ Cr Price ☐ Cr Cowan ☐ Cr Hansen ☐ Cr Jennings ☐ Cr Turton ☐ Cr Watts ☐



Department of **Energy, Mines,
Industry Regulation and Safety**
Energy Policy WA



PoweringWA

2025

Draft Guideline on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Projects

Consultation Paper



An appropriate citation for this paper is: Draft Guideline on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Projects - Consultation Paper

Energy Policy WA
Level 1, 66 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6000

Locked Bag 100, East Perth WA 6892
Telephone: 08 6551 4600

www.energy.wa.gov.au

ABN 84 730 831 715

Enquiries about this report should be directed to:

Email: poweringwa@demirs.wa.gov.au

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Glossary

Term	Definition
Renewable Energy	Electricity generated from renewable resources, such as wind and solar energy.
Wind Projects	Renewable energy projects that predominantly comprise of wind turbines, with an installed capacity of more than 25MW ¹ .
Large-scale solar Projects	Renewable energy projects that predominantly comprise of solar panels, with an installed capacity of more than 25MW ² .
SWIS	South West Interconnected System, the main electricity grid in WA.
MW	Megawatt, a unit to measure electricity output.

¹ As defined under eligibility for the LRET; [Eligibility for the Renewable Energy Target | Clean Energy Regulator](#).

² As above.

Overview

The energy transition is underway in Western Australia (WA). To meet our State's future energy needs, we need to decarbonise our energy system, moving away from carbon intensive resources (such as coal) to renewable resources, firmed by storage and gas.

The energy transition will have significant benefits and opportunities for regional communities hosting this infrastructure, such as economic growth and investment, but will also bring challenges and changes to the local landscape. Benefits are not always experienced in proportion to the impact these projects have on hosting communities.

The larger benefits of renewable energy infrastructure are often strategic and shared across the State, including major industries and export sectors. Unlike other projects which have high levels of employment and economic activity created throughout the life of the project, renewable energy projects are characterised by large assets with much lower ongoing activity in the surrounding regions.

Community benefit sharing involves sharing the rewards of renewable energy development with local communities. It aims to integrate a development in the local community by contributing to the future vitality and success of the region. It is based on a desire to establish and maintain positive long-term connections to the area and to be a good neighbour.

Ultimately community benefits flow through to electricity costs, and so policy frameworks for community benefits must balance the need to recognise and support the contribution played by host communities with ensuring that electricity prices remain affordable.

The purpose of this paper is to respond to requests from communities and renewable energy developers to provide a resource for determining appropriate community benefits arrangements for renewable energy infrastructure. This guideline can be applied to renewable energy generation infrastructure such as wind turbines, solar farms and batteries. The principles in this guideline are broad and can be applied across WA. However, many of the suggested benefits values are most relevant to projects in the State's South-West, especially those intending to connect to the South West Interconnected System (SWIS).

Community benefits are only one part of social performance for renewable energy projects, and there are many other ways that projects can contribute to local communities. It is expected that projects will follow best practice in how they are developed, including local training and employment, procurement of goods and services and development and use of local infrastructure. Renewable energy projects are only a subset of electricity infrastructure – for instance, social performance for transmission infrastructure is also important and will be considered separately.

Feedback is sought on the proposed guideline as outlined in this paper; as well as case studies for inclusion in the final paper.

Introduction

The Energy Transition

The energy transition is underway in Western Australia (WA), bringing clean, reliable and affordable energy to Western Australians that can underpin our economic diversification and create opportunities. To meet our State's future energy needs, we need to decarbonise our energy system, moving away from carbon intensive resources (such as coal) to renewable resources.

Increasing demand for electricity from households and industry, coupled with projected economic growth, means that we may need to produce as much as ten times the current level of electricity for the State's main grid to reach WA's target of net zero by 2050.

The most cost-effective way to manage this transition is to build large-scale wind and solar power, supported by storage and gas, to maintain reliability. The transition from coal-fired generation to large-scale renewable energy generation projects represents a significant change to the energy system and surrounding landscape. These projects will need to be located throughout the state in areas where there is strong renewable resource availability and proximity to high voltage transmission infrastructure.

Many of these projects will be in regional areas, consistent with planned extensions and upgrades to the state's main transmission network, the South West Interconnected System (SWIS).

Communities and the Energy Transition

Large-scale renewable energy brings significant benefits to Western Australia, reducing our emissions and helping to deliver more affordable and reliable power supply.

Regional communities located where there is strong renewable resource availability will play a key role in this energy transition. Many communities are located close to new electricity infrastructure.

Importantly, this transformation will ensure cleaner, affordable and more reliable energy for all Western Australians and growing WA industry into the future. The energy transition will bring significant benefits and opportunities to communities, such as economic growth and investment, but will also bring challenges and changes to the local landscape.

In addition to direct benefits to hosting landholders and sometimes neighbours, wider community opportunities can include local jobs and business procurement, community infrastructure, and local economic development. However, the greater benefits of renewable energy infrastructure are often strategic and shared across the State. Benefits are not always experienced in proportion to the impact these projects have on hosting communities. Hosting renewable energy infrastructure can also present challenges for regional communities. The construction process can cause disruption in the community, and objections by some community members may cause social and economic division.

Community benefits seek to promote equitable outcomes and participation by regional communities throughout the transition, and to recognise impacts on those hosting the infrastructure. These arrangements encourage greater empowerment of communities to derive equitable benefit from the energy transition, as well as improve investor certainty and reduce delays in the development of large-scale electricity infrastructure.

Renewable energy project proponents and communities are actively discussing community benefits, but to date these discussions have been inconsistent. This guideline is intended to support these discussions through providing a tool for developers and communities to refer to when negotiating community benefits contributions. Reflecting the diverse makeup of regional communities is key to developing a benefits framework that serves each unique community. This includes a reflection of the

local government needs, representation of diverse groups within a community, and other features specific to each community and project.

While community benefits are important, it is vital that they are based on specific community needs and proportionate to the impacts of the project. Early and continuous consultation with the community, local government, and impacted groups is crucial to maintain social licence and social performance throughout the lifecycle of the project. By prioritising transparent communication and proactive engagement, proponents can foster strong community relationships that support the success of their projects.

At the same time, it is important to ensure that these projects remain viable. This includes considering the cumulative costs, and local government rates. Striking the right balance is essential to keep energy affordable for households and businesses while delivering real outcomes for regional communities.

Purpose of this Paper

The purpose of this paper is to:

- Provide information to communities about the types of benefit sharing arrangements available for the renewable energy infrastructure they are hosting,
- Provide information to developers about State Government expectations for community benefits arrangements,
- Provide a guide on appropriate value of community benefits in different contexts,
- Provide suggestions for the governance and administration of community benefits funds, and
- Provide confidence and clarity for proponents and investors by setting out a clear framework for benefit-sharing arrangements across Western Australia.

This guideline can be applied to large-scale, grid-connected renewable energy generation and storage projects, such as wind turbines and solar farms, and battery installations. It is not intended for behind the meter or embedded generation projects. The principles in this guideline are broad and can be applied across WA, particularly to projects located within the South West Interconnected System (SWIS) in Western Australia. It is important to note that projects in the North West Interconnected System (NWIS) may require tailored approaches due to different network characteristics and community contexts. Many of the suggested benefits values are most relevant to projects in the State's South-West, especially those intending to connect to the SWIS.

Invitation for Submission

On behalf of the State Government, PoweringWA is seeking feedback on this guideline.

Making a Submission

The closing date for providing comments is 4 August 2025.

Submissions should be sent by email to poweringwa@demirs.wa.gov.au.

Submissions may also be sent by post, addressed to:

PoweringWA
Locked Bag 100
East Perth WA 6892

Publication

PoweringWA will publish a summary of submissions received on the [Energy Policy WA website](#).

Please indicate in your submission any information you would prefer to keep confidential, for example your name or organisations name, or information or data in your submission which should be redacted.

Please note that submissions made in response to this paper will be subject to freedom of information requests and will be treated in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* (WA).

Next Steps

PoweringWA will review submissions and publish a finalised guideline, informed by the submissions received.

Detailed documentation will also be developed to enable and support the implementation of the final positions, including case studies which may support engagement between proponents and communities. The timing of the implementation of these positions will be dependent on the nature of any changes.

Community Benefits

Community benefits seek to recognise the contribution hosting communities are making to the energy transition and share value from renewable energy projects with host communities, through direct support for local projects or financial contribution towards a local or regional fund. This has historically been referred to as ‘benefit sharing’. Many new renewable energy projects provide community funds and negotiate these proposals with local communities to deliver meaningful benefits. These payments are considered separately and in addition to landholder agreements and compensation, planning / environmental conditions applied to manage and mitigate impacts, and in some other jurisdictions, payment in lieu of rates.

Community benefits can be financial or non-financial, and the appropriate mix of community benefits for each project can be negotiated between the developer and community. A financial commitment to a community fund is one of the clearest and most practical ways to deliver lasting benefits. It also gives proponents confidence they’re meeting community expectations, especially when funds are managed appropriately and reflect best practice. This guideline sets out clear expectations to help get good projects off the ground and deliver benefits for communities and the broader energy system.

Community benefits should be based on the desire to establish and maintain the project’s positive connection to an area in the long term – a legacy for the community. Benefit sharing for the community brings positive economic and social outcomes to the broader community – not just landholders hosting projects. It is vital that benefit sharing should reflect the needs and desires of each host community, as what is appropriate for one community doesn’t always fit another. Flexibility is also important to ensure that lasting economic benefits can be achieved, particularly where there are multiple projects in a location.

It is important to ensure that benefits-sharing arrangements reflect the unique nature of renewable energy projects. These projects differ to mineral and petroleum projects, transmission infrastructure or other significant energy infrastructure developments. These are established industries embedded in regional WA which provide a range of benefits. Renewable energy is creating new opportunities in regions with strong wind and solar resources, and community benefit arrangements are a way to ensure locals see real value. Community benefits are about making sure the regions that power WA’s clean energy future also share in the jobs, investment and long-term benefits that come with it.

Current Situation

Increasingly, developers are recognising that community benefits are a fundamental part of project development. These community benefits arrangements differ in value, governance and longevity. This lack of consistency creates uncertainty for both communities and proponents.

Often, these arrangements are managed by the developer, in consultation with stakeholders who they have identified as being impacted by the development. The developer will provide benefits to some part of the community through a mechanism such as sponsorship, or through a central fund that community members can apply to. This approach may favour small, visible contributions rather than those most highly valued by the community, and those which can build lasting economic benefits. Of the community benefit examples available, those undertaken collaboratively and with community can be the most effective arrangement for community benefits.

Therefore, a more consistent approach to agreeing benefits arrangements between community representatives, the relevant Local Government(s), regions and the developer is proposed.

Types of Community Benefit

Community benefit sharing arrangements can take many forms. The approach for each community should be tailored to that community's needs and provide benefit throughout the renewable energy infrastructure's life.

These arrangements can be financial or non-financial, however there is usually some financial contribution from the developer. Some examples of different benefit-sharing arrangements are outlined below.

Benefit sharing can include:

- *Legacy funding and grant fund initiatives.* These financial arrangements are explained in greater detail below, along with a suggested range for contribution.
- *Sponsorship.* This contributes to local groups and/or activities and can also build the local reputation of a project. Sponsorship can work well in combination with more long-term funding or support.
- *Community Infrastructure.* Infrastructure for the use of the community, such as local housing used as worker accommodation during construction of the development, can be donated to the community by the developer or constructed with direct financial support by the developer. Where there is a community need for these services, project proponents can also fund or supply upgraded solar, battery and/or telecommunications infrastructure.
- *Innovative financing and co-ownership.* Developers may choose to offer the local community additional opportunities to become involved in local projects.

Principles for community benefit arrangements

The following principles should be considered when developing community benefit arrangements.

- *Appropriate:* the arrangements should consider the project size and its impact on the host community, with the contribution being commensurate to the scale of the project.
- *Provide Opportunity:* the arrangements should support the community to benefit from hosting a project and reap lasting economic benefits.
- *Equitable and Inclusive:* the arrangements should aim to include affected community as much as practicable and distribute benefits equitably.
- *Legacy Building:* the arrangements should leave a lasting positive impact on the community.
- *Bespoke:* the arrangements should be created with local input to address specific needs and concerns in the area.
- *Transparent:* the arrangements should be clearly communicated, with local involvement and collaboration whenever possible.

Community Benefits Arrangements in WA

As outlined above there is currently significant variability across individual projects in terms of the agreed approach to community benefit sharing. For new developments, there is an opportunity to improve consistency and provide upfront guidance to developers, local governments, and the broader community. To assist in building a more consistent approach and managing expectations across parties, the WA Government suggests community benefits be designed in line with the below guidelines, in accordance with the principles detailed above. Payment into a defined community benefits fund is presented as an option and to assist in providing a standard baseline for approaching these negotiations.

Application of this guideline

This guideline can be applied to communities hosting renewable energy projects across Western Australia. However, many of the suggested benefits values are most relevant to projects intending to connect to the SWIS. In areas of the State where communities can look very different – such as the Pilbara – it is important that a benefit sharing program takes the uniqueness of that community into account. These guidelines are not intended to apply to embedded renewable generation projects (such as those directly supplying mining operations) as these are by their nature part of a larger project with associated economic activity.

Benefit value guidelines

Guidance for community benefits values is informed by benchmarking of best practice arrangements across Australia. Recognising that each project is unique, flexibility is encouraged within a range of:

- \$500–\$1,500 per MW per annum for wind projects; and
- \$150–\$800 per MW per annum for solar projects,

paid over the life of the development and indexed to inflation.

While no range is proposed for storage projects (there is no industry benchmark for this currently), it is expected that these projects also provide some benefit to the hosting community. Where projects have multiple elements, benefits should be paid for each.

Under this guideline, a 200MW wind project would contribute between \$100,000 and \$300,000 in benefits per annum.

The final benefits offering should be informed by the impact of the project on the community, the size of the impacted community, whether there are multiple communities impacted and the extent that neighbouring landholders have also shared in benefits. This includes factors such as the impact on community services and amenity for community members, the ability of the community to access economic value from ongoing maintenance of renewable energy infrastructure (e.g. availability of accommodation and housing), and the cumulative impact multiple projects may have on a single community or region. In sparsely populated areas, a lower per MW amount may be appropriate compared to areas of higher population or small landholdings or multiple communities/Local Government areas impacted. Additionally, a wider spread of benefits might be appropriate where services are delivered through a regional centre.

Note on this draft:

It is intended that the final version of this guideline will showcase some of the innovative benefits sharing arrangements that some developers and communities have negotiated, which recognise the needs and aspirations of the community in question.

Criteria for application of guidelines

Factors considered by developers and communities when agreeing a community benefits arrangement with a value within the proposed range could include:

- the population and population density of the community (or communities) most impacted by the renewable energy infrastructure;
- the impact a potential renewable energy project will have on the amenity of the area;
- the scale and staging of the renewable energy project;
- whether a high proportion of community members experiencing impacts to their amenity are also receiving neighbour or landholder compensation;
- the application of other fees and charges incurred by the developer, including local government rates and any pre-existing community focused financial commitments;
- the ability of the community or regional centre to support the ongoing maintenance of the infrastructure and infrastructure deficits that need to be addressed to ensure ongoing community benefits;
- the community benefits experienced as a result of the project's construction, such as local employment and supply chain opportunities and improved housing or temporary worker facilities that can be repurposed for ongoing use;
- the cumulative impact of multiple renewable energy projects on the community; and
- other unique factors specific to each project and community.

Developing Community Benefits arrangements

Effective community engagement is crucial to developing a community benefits solution that will help maintain community acceptance throughout the project lifecycle. The following engagement principles are based on the National Guidelines for Community Engagement and Benefits for Transmission Projects, which provide a strong foundation that can be applied to developing community benefit arrangements for generation projects.

To achieve best practice in community engagement for developing community benefits, developers should adhere to the following principles:

- Engage early, to ensure community benefits arrangements can be agreed to in principle before the Development Application is submitted.
- Ensure engagement is diverse, equitable and inclusive, through ensuring members of the community have an ability to have a direct say or direct participation in the design of benefits arrangements.
- Be responsive to community input and enable participation.
- Engage with Aboriginal people and be responsive to their input and influence.
- Partner with the community.
- Provide accurate, transparent and accessible information.
- Engage impacted groups in the process.
- Be aware of community expectations.
- Build long-term legacy.
- Measure broadly and regularly.
- Report accurately and transparently.

Benefits for Aboriginal Western Australians

The First Nations Clean Energy Strategy sets out the principles and actions that all governments, industry and community should take to ensure that First Nations peoples across the country are supported to participate in the energy transition. The WA State Government has endorsed the vision, goals and objectives of the Strategy, which considers the intersection between the clean energy transition and the rights and interests of all First Nations peoples.

Western Australia is a geographically diverse state, with equally diverse communities. An Aboriginal perspective should be included all community consultation and consideration of benefits programs to ensure a social licence to operate renewable energy projects. This is particularly the case in parts of the State where the proximate communities have a predominantly Aboriginal population. This social licence to operate is separate, but related to specific statutory rights and processes under State and Federal legislation such as the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and the *Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993* (which includes a statutory right to compensation), as well as specific rights held by the parties in the South West Native Title Settlement and Yamatji Nation Indigenous Land Use Agreement areas.

Governance and Administration

Governance Structure

There are several options for the administration and governance of a community benefits fund, should this option form part of the community benefits arrangement. These arrangements must also contemplate the delivery of the scheme, in particular recognising the varying level of interest and capacity of Local Governments in implementing such arrangements. A series of models are suggested here; however, the exact governance structure will depend on the hosting community.

- *Local Government Administered* – Suitable in a community where the Local Government has the capacity and resources to manage community benefit programs but not the resources to set up and manage an additional trust structure. Several Local Governments have expressed a preference for this option.
- *Community Trust Fund* – Suitable where the community has the capacity and resources to set up and manage a trust fund. Members would need to be representative of the community, and it would aim to support programs, services or infrastructure that reflects local needs and delivers enduring benefits for local communities. Decisions on funding would include representatives from the relevant Local Government/s, community and proponent/s. This would take the form of a consultative community panel and could include representatives from existing community organisations. The panel would identify, review and recommend appropriate funding opportunities for a local community benefits fund.
- *Local Government-led Community Trust Fund* – Suitable where a Local Government has the capacity to set up a trust fund to support the allocation of funding. Decisions on funding would ideally be made in a consultative way similar to the above option, but governance would ultimately sit with the Local Government. This is similar to the model proposed in some other jurisdictions, where community benefits are attached to Renewable Energy Zones. Involvement in this structure would be subject to restrictions placed on Local Governments under the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Often, multiple projects will fall in one area due to the renewable resource availability and/or grid connections. Where there are multiple projects in one area, developers are encouraged to collaborate on a benefit sharing arrangement where possible. Governance through a community trust fund is well suited to this.

Commencement of benefit sharing arrangements

The WA Government recognises that renewable energy infrastructure development impacts hosting communities starting in the planning phase, peaking in the construction phase, through operation to decommissioning. Local communities may have an expectation that benefits will begin to be delivered during the construction phase to compensate for this.

However, in the case of a community benefits fund arrangement, commencing payment into the fund before a project is generating income may adversely impact the viability of a project. There can be a significant gap between the first construction stages of a renewable energy project, and the date that revenue is first received from the electricity generated by that infrastructure.

Discussion between the developer and affected community is encouraged to agree on a commencement date for community benefits, taking both perspectives into account. The facilitation of these arrangements could be staggered, providing different benefits between construction and operation periods, but this is at the discretion of the developer and the hosting community.

Length of Arrangements

Community Benefits arrangements are suggested to take place throughout the life of the project. All members of the community should have an opportunity to derive benefits from the proposal, as opposed to the benefits being distributed within the first 1 – 5 years of operations. This means that community benefits arrangements should be tied to a specific project, rather than the project proponent, and should be maintained regardless of any change in project ownership.

Ongoing contributions into a fund, as an alternative to single one-off payment benefit arrangement, may assist in maintaining a project's social licence over time and assist in the building of longer-term legacy benefits for proponents.

Consistent with the above principles, community benefits arrangements are most successful where there is an ongoing commitment tailored to the needs of unique communities, and the knowledge that these may change over the project lifecycle.

Reporting and Review

Renewable energy projects have a long lifespan. For example, a wind farm can operate for up to 30 years, so it is crucial that evaluation of impact on the community is reviewed over time, as local needs and priorities may shift. Developers need certainty too, as projects age and maintenance increases. There are ongoing roles for communities and developers over the life of a project, and benefit sharing should strike a balance between supporting communities while giving proponents the confidence to plan ahead.

What is considered effective for a community now might not be the same in a decade, so evaluating the role and effectiveness of community benefits should always be an ongoing process. How often evaluation takes place is dependent on project needs.

Some key considerations include:

- Clearly setting evaluation objectives is an important first step. Benefits arrangements vary by community and project, so evaluation of outcomes should be clearly linked to the success of the project. Methods of evaluation should always be highly tailored to project needs. Where benefits are delivered through a fund, responsibility for monitoring outcomes will rest with the fund administrator and should be addressed through the fund's governance arrangements.
- The identification of key questions, concepts, or factors to measure community benefits consistently throughout the project should be considered early.
- Evaluation needs to encompass measurement across diverse community groups for greater accuracy.

- Using indirect and direct sources of data can be useful when reviewing community benefits. For example, a direct source of evaluation could be the amount of money distributed through a community-run grants program, while an indirect source could be the reported satisfaction with the project and benefits program from the community.
- Communicating results and establishing a feedback loop between the developer and community is important for productive evaluation.

Monitoring Implementation of the Framework

Consistency with this guideline will support a project's progression through the planning, regulatory and connection processes, as well as eligibility for Commonwealth Government support, such as the Capacity Investment Scheme.

Other considerations

Nearby communities

Communities or regional centres outside of the hosting local government area, but near where the renewable energy project is located should be considered in the allocation of community benefits. There may be instances where broader regional investment would assist the whole region to support the energy transition (i.e., where the project is far from population areas, but regional centres will be important for hosting the servicing and maintenance of the infrastructure). There may also be impacts on nearby communities that should be considered (e.g., in terms of traffic flows, wear and tear on roads, water use, sand and gravel available for local road maintenance). Providing community benefits for projects is an opportunity for a mutual win for both members of the community and developers. Community benefits assist in ensuring both parties see benefits and minimal costs associated with renewable energy projects.

Neighbours

Neighbours are a part of the community, and the relationship between landholders directly hosting renewable energy projects and the neighbouring property can be a key part of the community's acceptance of a new renewable energy development. While any neighbour payments are separate to community benefits arrangements, they can be considered in ensuring an appropriate split of landholder payments, neighbour payments and community benefits. Suggestions for agreements with neighbours, and other considerations for neighbours to those hosting, are outlined in the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner's Observations and Recommendations.

The role of rates

Most Local Governments are not currently collecting rates revenue from renewable energy projects but at the same time are incurring costs from these projects. Unless otherwise agreed, community benefits should be viewed as separate to any cost recovery undertaken by Councils, including rates specific to renewable energy projects. Nevertheless, communities and Local Governments should consider the cumulative impact of any change in ratings approach along with any independently negotiated community benefits program. This will ensure commerciality is maintained, sovereign risk is reduced, and that additional revenue is split fairly between hosting councils seeking to recover their costs, and communities seeking benefits for hosting new renewable energy projects.

Landholders considering hosting renewable energy infrastructure should ensure that consideration of rate increases on their land, and how these are passed through, is included in their agreement with the developer.

Development benefits

The way in which developers undertake projects can also result in lasting benefits for communities. For instance, the development of local skills, job opportunities and housing. Where possible, projects should optimise their overall impact on the community. Development benefits may offer a way to accelerate the delivery of planned regional economic development activities. For example, contributions to headworks for residential or industrial land development that may support the ongoing operation of renewable energy projects.

Flexibility in community benefits acknowledges that some important benefits may be able to be delivered through a considered approach to project development, and that this should be acknowledged.

Additional Resources

- [Clean Energy Council \(CEC\) guide to benefit sharing options for renewable energy projects](#) – This CEC guide has provided communities and developers with a resource since 2019. The suggestions in this guide provide a good overview of the options available for benefit sharing. This paper aims to supplement the CEC guide by providing current, WA-specific guidance and resources.
- [CEC best practice charter for developers](#) – This charter outlines a commitment by signatories to engage respectfully with the communities in which they plan and operate projects, to be sensitive to environmental and cultural values and to make a positive contribution to the regions in which they operate.
- [Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner's Observations and Recommendations](#) – This includes a number of observations and recommendations for consideration in relation to the governance, development and operation of wind farms, solar farms and energy storage facilities.
- [National guidelines for community engagement and benefits for electricity transmission projects](#) – These guidelines were developed following extensive consultation. While they are specific to transmission infrastructure, the principles are also relevant for generation projects in WA.
- [First Nations Clean Energy Strategy](#) – This is a useful resource for inclusion of First Nations people in a community benefits arrangement. The Strategy is a national framework to guide investment, influence policy, and support First Nations people to self-determine how they participate in, and benefit from, Australia's clean energy transition.
- [CEC/KPMG Leading Practice Principles: First Nations and Renewable Energy Projects](#) – This provides a national guide on First Nations engagement, participation and benefit sharing for renewable energy projects.
- [On the frontline: climate change and rural communities](#) – This provides an overview of the opportunities for rural communities in the energy transition. It also outlines the effects of climate change on rural communities, and the long-term role that renewable energy can play in mitigating these.

Joint Local Government Submission

On behalf of
Country Local Governments
Renewables Alliance

*PoweringWA – Draft Guideline on Community
Benefits for Renewable Energy Projects
(Consultation Paper)*

Approved Version - 25 July 2025

Overview

Western Australia has an opportunity to set a nation leading standard for community benefits arrangements that benefits local communities, industry and all Western Australians.

Developing a robust, WA oriented framework that benefits from the experiences of more advanced jurisdictions is essential to provide industry and local communities with the certainty and confidence necessary to navigate the renewable energy transition.

Local Government Authorities (LGAs) that have contributed to this submission are supportive of the need for a community benefits Guideline that recognises the diverse characteristics and needs of Western Australia's LGAs. The PoweringWA Draft *Guideline* is a welcome start that requires some targeted improvements and a clear regulatory or state policy standing.

This submission by the undersigned LGAs identifies a series of opportunities to improve the clarity and effectiveness of the Guideline prior to finalisation. These include:

- **A single recommended contribution value**

Improving the Guidance on community benefit contribution values by providing a single contribution value benchmark (based on the NSW Guidelines) instead of the wide ranges in the Draft Guideline. This approach will provide better basis for agreement of mutually acceptable terms between LGAs and industry. It will also improve the transparency of the process and reduce the risks to LGAs involved in negotiations on behalf of the community.
- **Allocation of benefits according to the location of nameplate capacity**

Many projects are located in multiple LGAs. The Guideline should include a recommendation that benefits are allocated according to the nameplate capacity located in each LGA. This will provide a simple and transparent basis for allocating benefit contributions between communities.
- **Including Security of benefits arrangements as a key element in the Guideline**

Including a focus on ensuring the security of benefits arrangements is essential for both communities and industry to have certainty over the operating life of these projects. The addition of Secure principle in the Guideline and an explicit expectation that community benefit contributions will be secured by LGA-developer agreements (and/or network access and planning conditions if future policies allow this to occur).

The future security of contributions is essential for communities who need to make long term planning, financial and other decisions. It also reduces sovereign risk for industry.

LGAs are also engaging with Planning Minister and WPCEO to seek practical changes to planning and network access arrangements that can improve security. We request PoweringWA support in achieving these outcomes.
- **Focussing on the opportunities community benefits provide**

Community benefit arrangements should not be identified as a driver of power prices or project viability by the Guideline and these inferences should be removed. Drawing these links is unnecessarily divisive and not supported by the evidence.

The Guideline should focus on the opportunities community benefit arrangements provide for communities, industry and government which far outweigh the minor additional costs.

- **Removing inconsistencies in the discussion of local rates**

Community benefit arrangements should be consistently recognised as additional to rates within the final Guideline.

- **Investing in LGA capability**

A request for PoweringWA to convene workshops to build LGA negotiating capabilities alongside finalisation of the Guideline.

- **Providing advice on existing projects**

Including clear trigger points for existing projects community benefit arrangements to be brought in line with the Guideline in the future will avoid confusion about whether there need to be changes to arrangements for projects that are built, in construction or have approvals.

These recommended improvements reflect the deep, direct and ongoing experience of LGA leaders in negotiating with renewable developers on behalf of their communities. These negotiations have been undertaken without the support of PoweringWA's guidance. The proposed changes will benefit all parties – communities, State and LGAs and industry - if they are incorporated by PoweringWA into the final guideline.

Local Governments supporting this Submission

This submission has been prepared on behalf and is supported by the following **thirty-one (31)** Local Governments:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Shire of Beverley | • Shire Mingenew |
| • Shire of Boddington | • Shire of Moora |
| • Shire of Bruce Rock | • Shire of Narrogin |
| • Shire of Brookton | • Shire of Northam |
| • Shire of Carnamah | • Shire of Northampton |
| • Shire of Chapman Valley | • Shire of Pingelly |
| • Shire of Chittering | • Shire of Toodyay |
| • Shire of Coorow | • Shire of Trayning |
| • Shire of Corrigin | • Shire of Victoria Plains |
| • Shire of Cunderdin | • Shire of West Arthur |
| • Shire of Cuballing | • Shire of Westonia |
| • Shire of Gingin | • Shire of Williams |
| • Shire of Goomalling | • Shire of Wongan-Ballidu |
| • Shire of Kellerberrin | • Shire of Woodanilling |
| • Shire of Kondinin | • Shire of York |
| • Shire of Kulin | |

Key Points of Feedback

1. Replace the Benefit Contribution Ranges with a single recommended contribution and include contribution guidance for BESS projects

The signatories strongly advocate for the adoption of a uniform, fixed-contribution per megawatt (\$/MW) formula for determining community benefit contributions associated with wind energy, solar array, and battery energy storage system (BESS) developments across Western Australia.

In contrast to a variable or range-based contribution model—where proponents negotiate individual outcomes with host local governments—the fixed-contribution model provides clarity, fairness, transparency, and consistency. A **mandated** contribution value would significantly reduce the uncertainty and risks inherent in the current approach proposed under the State’s draft guidelines.

The proposed range-based model creates a situation where local governments and their representatives are placed under unreasonable and unsustainable sovereign and political risk. This risk arises from the perception—often shaped during local election cycles or executive reviews—that a council’s mayor, president, CEO, or negotiating officers have either failed to secure a ‘sufficient’ contribution or have been outperformed by other jurisdictions. This dynamic fosters:

- Public mistrust, especially in communities that may compare outcomes across local governments;
- Accusations of incompetence or, worse, corruption, where negotiations fall short of the upper end of the State’s recommended range;
- Undue pressure on elected members and executives, which can erode public confidence and destabilise local governance;
- Political weaponisation of contribution outcomes during biennial local government elections, CEO contract renewals, or changes in council leadership.

This is particularly fraught given that local governments are often negotiating with multinational corporations possessing vastly greater resources, legal capacity, and experience. The expectation that volunteer elected members or even seasoned CEOs can reliably negotiate top-tier contributions within a range framework is not only unrealistic—it is systemically inequitable and unsustainable.

In contrast, a statewide fixed-contribution approach, as already implemented successfully in jurisdictions such as New South Wales, provides a level playing field. It ensures:

- Predictability for proponents, streamlining project feasibility and budgeting;
- Certainty and consistency for local governments, avoiding reputational damage from perceived negotiation shortcomings;
- Transparency and fairness for communities, who are assured of equitable treatment regardless of where they live;

- Reduced risk of conflict or regulatory scrutiny, as contribution expectations are clearly established in policy and uniformly applied.

Unless there are extraordinary or site-specific extenuating circumstances, the use of a fixed contribution value per MW is a superior model—one that mitigates sovereign and political risk, fosters public trust, and enhances the integrity of renewable energy planning and delivery in WA.

Accordingly, we strongly recommend that the WA State Government adopt a consistent, mandated community benefits contribution value, aligned with the proven New South Wales model, and resist the implementation of loosely defined or negotiable contribution ranges.

This single recommended contribution values aligned to the NSW Guideline¹ and include a contribution for stand-alone Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) would be:

- \$1,050 per megawatt per annum indexed to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for wind energy development
- \$850 per megawatt per annum indexed to CPI for solar energy development
- \$150 per megawatt hour per annum indexed to CPI for stand-alone battery energy storage systems²

Setting clear contribution value guidance empowers local communities and industry, creating a firm foundation for agreements that can demonstrate the maturity of interactions between the parties and create mutually beneficial outcomes reflecting the local community and project context.

2. Benefit contribution allocations should align to nameplate capacity location for projects that span multiple LGAs

Community benefits should flow to impacted communities. Many renewable energy projects are located within more than one LGA and it is important that there is clarity on how community benefits should be allocated between communities.

The Guideline should include clear guidance that allocation of community benefit contributions should be made on the basis of the proportion of nameplate capacity located in each LGA. For example, if a 10MW project had 4MW in one LGA and 6MW in another then a 40/60 split would be made in the contribution arrangements.

There may be exceptions to this approach for a small number of projects. For example, where significant population areas are located in close proximity to a project but the majority of the project is an adjoining LGA with no nearby towns or more densely settled areas. These exceptions can be resolved by discussion and agreement.

¹ NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure 2024, Benefit-Sharing Guideline: Guidance for large scale energy projects <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-11/benefit-sharing-guideline.pdf>

² The consultation paper argues that there is no industry benchmark for BESS projects. In our view, the NSW Guideline has established an industry benchmark for BESS agreements, and this should be included in the Guideline. Not including a contribution for BESS projects will unnecessarily complicate negotiations, creating risks for both parties.

However, for vast majority of arrangements this simple approach to apportioning benefits funds will provide a clear basis for agreement. Inclusion of this expectation in the Guideline will help to avoid unnecessary conflict, competing expectations or time-consuming negotiations between LGAs.

3. The Guideline should include a focus on ensuring the security of benefits arrangements for communities and industry

The Guideline should include a focus on ensuring the security of community benefit arrangements to increase certainty for both industry and communities.

Security is essential as LGAs, and communities must have confidence that benefit arrangements (and other commitments to supporting local communities) will actually be enforceable and delivered by industry once approvals are in place. This is essential for long-term statutory management, financial and strategic planning.

Without proper security from the outset, these arrangements could be the subject of renegotiation or change at the discretion of the project owner or LGAs. A lack of security therefore introduces risk for both communities and project owners. In our view:

- Relying on the on-going goodwill of industry over 30-year project lifespans and potentially repeated changes in ownership is an excessive and unreasonable risk to communities. If a project ceases payments, there is no way for this to be addressed unless these arrangements are secure.
- There are also sovereign risks for industry without proper security. New Councils or leaders in LGAs could seek to renegotiate for higher benefit arrangements at their discretion unless arrangements are appropriately secure. Renegotiation may also become a local political issue during election campaigns, leading to local division and uncertainty.

The fundamental insecurity of benefit arrangements has been emphasised in recent project approvals. Currently, community benefit arrangements are only recognised within the advice notes of statutory body assessments. The advice notes are not binding which provides very limited to no security for the future.

We note that community benefit agreements are better secured in other jurisdictions. For example, Voluntary Planning Agreements are utilised in NSW, supported by planning conditions. Community Benefit Agreements have also recently been introduced in Queensland as part of legislative changes.

To address this issue in the Guideline it is recommended that **Secure** be added as an additional principle in the guideline in *Principles for community benefit arrangements* section. This could be drafted as:

- **Secure:** the arrangements for community benefits should be appropriately secured via enforceable agreements between LGAs and project owners to provide certainty for communities and industry over the life of the project. These agreements should wherever possible be integrated within planning approvals and network access arrangements where policies provide the basis for these links to be made.

Whilst security can be supported via community benefits being captured in dedicated legal agreements between LGAs and project owners, this approach brings additional costs. Establishing a requirement within network access arrangements with Western Power is a preferred pathway and consistent with approaches in other jurisdictions.

Specifically, agreement of a community benefits contributions consistent with the Guideline should be made a condition for granting and maintaining a network access licence with Western Power. This would also require the granting of any future network access licenses / agreements to be conditional on the new operator committing to the community benefit arrangement.

We note that *State Planning Policy 3.6 Infrastructure Contributions*³ could also provide a pathway for creating a nexus within the existing planning framework. However, the requirements for these processes are onerous and SPP3.6 is not commonly utilised by smaller rural local governments, creating a significant burden on LGAs.

The focus on achieving greater security through network access arrangements mirrors arrangements in NSW such as the Renewable Energy Zone Access Scheme and complements existing considerations in the Commonwealth Capacity Investment scheme. By linking appropriate community benefit arrangements to network access and government support, community benefits are placed at the heart of project arrangements and developers have a significant incentive to agree to proper arrangements with communities.

Whilst we recognise that implementing these changes is beyond the scope of the Guideline and PoweringWA's mandate, PoweringWA can play an important role in realising this security through its advocacy for change within government and we request your support.

The Guideline can also support this by recognising the potential for these future security pathways and creating an expectation that - in the absence of the changes recommended above - developers should enter into binding agreements with Local Governments to provide life-of-project security and certainty for host communities.

4. Remove elements of the Guideline that link community benefit contributions to power prices, project viability and sovereign risk

Community benefit arrangements are an insignificant factor in future power prices, are not a material factor impacting project viability and communities are not creating sovereign risk by seeking reasonable benefit arrangements.

It is also unnecessarily divisive to include these inferences within the Guideline. To do so implies that host communities seeking reasonable community benefits are imposing significant costs and risks for industry and the rest of the Western Australian community. In an environment where renewable energy is already very divisive within communities, it is important

³ https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2021-09/SPP_3.6_Infrastructure%20Contributions_Guidelines%20april2021_0.pdf

the WA Government seeks to foster unity and maximise benefits for all Western Australians from the energy transition.

Tables 2 and 3 provide a simple evidence-based review of the significance of community benefit contributions to power prices and project viability, supporting the removal of any negative links to power prices, sovereign risk and project viability in the final Guideline.

Table 2: Comparative Factors

Project Type	Indicative annual MWh generation per MW ⁴	2024 average SWIS wholesale price/MWh ⁵	2024 retail electricity charge (\$/MWh) ⁶	Community Benefit Contribution
Onshore wind	3504	\$79.93	\$315.82	\$1,050
Solar	2190	\$79.93	\$315.82	\$850

Table 3: Community Benefit Significance Assessment

Project Type	Indicative Annual Generation Revenue/MW	Community Benefit: cost to project owner (\$/MWh)	Community Benefit: % of annual facility revenue	Community Benefit: % of average annual wholesale price	Community Benefit: % of retail energy price
Onshore wind	\$280,075	0.30	0.37%	0.37%	0.09%
Solar	\$175,047	0.38	0.49%	0.47%	0.12%

This simple indicative analysis is based on industry benchmarks. It identifies community benefit contributions as comprising less than half a percent of potential generation revenue and around 0.1% of retail power prices in 2024. They represent a small, fixed additional cost and will only be incurred once projects are operational and generating revenue.

Compared to major cost factors such as project capital expenditure, financing costs, and supporting transmission capital investment, community benefit contributions cannot reasonably be identified as a significant factor impacting either project viability or future power prices.

More importantly, communities hosting renewable energy are making a significant contribution to the future of the energy system, bearing the direct impacts of this change which is industrialising rural landscapes, and they should be justly recognised for that contribution.

⁴ Derived based on the midpoint of the relevant capacity factor ranges in the CSIRO GenCost report - https://www.csiro.au/-/media/Energy/GenCost/GenCost2024-25ConsultDraft_20241205.pdf

⁵ Sourced from the AEMO Wem data dashboard <https://aemo.com.au/energy-systems/electricity/wholesale-electricity-market-wem/data-wem/data-dashboard>

⁶ Based on 2024 residential electricity tariff, excluding supply charges <https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/energy-policy-wa/household-electricity-pricing>

Rather than framing these contributions as a cost, community benefits should be framed in the Guideline as an opportunity to contribute to the future development of regional communities and create a genuine social licence for the energy transition.

The development of a robust and secure basis for negotiating community benefits is also an opportunity to reduce sovereign risk for developers. If this approach also helps to achieve earlier approvals the reductions in capital costs, smoothing of the energy transition and other benefits has the potential to increase project viability and contribute to lower power prices. These positive impacts could well outweigh the modest additional costs imposed on projects.

5. Clarify that community benefit arrangements are additional and are separate to local rates

Community benefit arrangements are necessitated by the limited long-term positive impact the renewable industry will leave for host communities. Unlike other key regional industries such as agriculture, tourism and resources, renewables provide very limited direct economic benefits over their operating life but have on-going material impacts.

Like other State fees, taxes and charges, local rates should be immutably independent of community benefit arrangements. Local rates represent a baseline contribution by all landowners to support community infrastructure and services.

The draft Guideline is inconsistent on this separation and needs clarification.

The statements in first paragraph of Community Benefits section and Role of Rates sections appropriately identify that community benefit payments are additional and separate to any rate obligations. These statements should be retained.

However, the following paragraph in the role of rates section should be removed:

“Nevertheless, communities and Local Governments should consider the cumulative impact of any change in ratings approach along with any independently negotiated community benefits program. This will ensure commerciality is maintained, sovereign risk is reduced, and that additional revenue is split fairly between hosting councils seeking to recover their costs, and communities seeking benefits for hosting new renewable energy projects.”

This paragraph undermines the clarity of earlier statements and introduces inappropriate and inaccurate statements. In particular, conflating the payment of rates with the commerciality of projects is inappropriate. There is no evidence to suggest that these relatively minor fixed costs are a material commercial consideration for developers and they are a cost that any land use in the State must pay.

The charging of rates based on State Government statutes by LGAs does not constitute a sovereign risk issue and this reference is similarly inappropriate.

Finally, this paragraph also infers that community benefit funds are a cost recovery mechanism for LGAs. This is completely at odds with the way in which community benefit funds are defined in the Guideline (see for example the *Communities and The Energy Transition* section). The

intent of these funds to provide additional benefits to host communities beyond what local resources – including rates – can provide.

The reference to rates within the criteria for any benefit contribution should be also removed.

6. Invest in LGA strategy and negotiation capability

The objective of community benefit contributions is to improve the long-term position of LGAs and their communities. This means, the LGAs involved need to produce a clearly thought through strategy to preserve their infrastructure and facilities for the next 20-30 years. Once this wave of development passes, the communities are unlikely to be supported at anything but the most basic level.

The Guideline should encourage long-term LGA strategic thinking, formulation of legacy projects and outcomes, and consideration of how community benefits funds can be applied and maximised to enable communities to position themselves for the future. A strategic view of how the community will absorb and manage both the immediate development pressure and the future beyond the construction period when new economic activity dissipates, and communities are left to reassemble themselves.

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) has recently developed a Renewable Energy Community Benefits and Community Engagement Guide⁷. The Guide provides LGAs with a baseline of practical information and processes to consider their local strategy and priorities, engagement with developers and the community, and development of community benefit schemes that work locally.

PoweringWA should build on this initiative and the Guideline by funding negotiation workshops for LGAs. These workshops would assist local leaders in preparing and presenting their expectations/ask to developers, improving face-to-face meeting conduct, issues management, knowledge, and the overall capacity of LGAs to negotiate successfully with developers. With much of the development occurring in small, under resourced rural LGAs, this capability building approach would greatly assist in lifting skills, avoiding delays and improving community and industry outcomes.

7. Emphasise the importance of early engagement and genuine consultation

The Guideline should emphasise the importance of early engagement with LGAs by developers and genuine engagement with communities as a foundation for agreeing strong community benefits arrangements. This will allow the communication of key issues between both sides and the identification and understanding of how communities can best utilise contributions and create a foundation for future prosperity as energy generating regions. This is currently mentioned in the Guideline but could be more clearly identified as an expectation of the Government and important pathway to success.

⁷ https://walga.asn.au/getmedia/ea947a1a-fc88-460f-966b-7e55f511d3a2/WALGA_Renewable-Energy-Community-Benefits-and-Engagement-Guide.pdf

8. Provide clearer guidance on community benefit arrangements for existing projects

Whilst the Guideline will provide a framework for improved benefit frameworks for new projects, we note that there are many existing projects (completed, under construction or approved) that have community benefit arrangements that do not align to the guidance provided.

It is not reasonable or feasible that these pre-Guideline community benefit arrangements be renegotiated to align to the new standard.

However, the Guide should note clear triggers for project arrangements to be improved to align to the Guideline. These triggers should include:

- if a project is rescope and an approval significantly modified
- if turbines, panels or batteries are progressively upgraded to higher capacity (name plate),
- project life extensions (repowering),
- changes to operating approvals.

Conclusion

The transition to renewable energy presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to deliver long-term social, economic and environmental benefits to Western Australia's regions. The Draft Guideline represents a strong starting point, but it must be refined to ensure **fair, consistent and secure outcomes** for host communities.

As the tier of government closest to the communities impacted by these projects, Local Governments are uniquely placed to facilitate, administer and advocate for lasting community benefit outcomes. However, this role must be supported by a clear, enforceable policy framework that empowers LGAs and sets a minimum benchmark for industry to meet.

The signatory Local Governments call on PoweringWA to incorporate the recommended improvements outlined in this submission, including adopting a fixed-contribution model, embedding benefit security mechanisms, clarifying and distinguishing the independence of community contributions from rates, and supporting LGA capability building.

These changes will foster trust, reduce risk, and enhance the social licence of renewable energy projects across Western Australia. With the right framework in place, community benefits can become a catalyst for strengthening regional communities and ensuring the energy transition delivers for all.

13. Finance

Items for Financial Report and Accounts for Payment to be presented at September's Ordinary Council Meeting.

This is due to additional end of financial year adjustments that are required, especially those relating to the Shire owned fuel facility.

13.1 2025/26 Annual Budget

File Reference:	14.145.14512
Location:	N/A
Applicant:	N/A
Author:	Dr Alistair Pinto, Chief Executive Officer
Authorising Officer	Dr Alistair Pinto, Chief Executive Officer
Date:	18 August 2025
Disclosure of Interest:	N/A
Attachments:	2025/26 Statutory Budget
Previous Reference:	N/A

Summary:

For Council to consider and adopt the Annual Budget for the 2025/2026 financial year.

Background:

The 2025/2026 Annual Budget has been prepared based on the principles contained within the Strategic Community Plan and the Long-Term Financial Plan. The Shire removed Differential Rating last year, meaning that all properties within each valuation category (GRV and UV) attract the same rate in the dollar for each valuation category.

Comment:

A key part of the budget process is identifying the 'budget deficiency' to be made up from the levying of council rates. The budget reflects the priorities of Council while considering community needs and managing organisational risk.

In collaboration with Councillors, the following Strategic Focus Areas have been identified and resourced in the 2025/26 Budget:

1. Deliver key Capital Works Projects for 2025/2026.
2. Ensure the Shire is progressing towards a strong financial future.
3. Manage organisational risk and improve regulatory compliance.
4. Progress a review of the Shire's Long Term Financial Plan and related strategic documents.

Consultation:

The 2025/26 Annual Budget and related documentation has been compiled by officers and reviewed by Executive and Councillors through a series of budget workshops and Councillor briefing sessions.

Statutory Environment:

Local Government Act 1995

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996

Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007 S66

Policy Implications:

The Budget is based on the broad principals contained within the Strategic Community Plan, Corporate Business Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan.

The Draft Budget 2025/26 applies the principles of the Department of Local Government, Industry regulation and Safety rating equity, in the setting of Council's minimum rates.

Financial Implications:

The budget implications are outlined in the Budget Document.

Strategic Implications:
PROVIDE STRONG LEADERSHIP

Our Goals	Our Strategies
We plan for the future and are strategically focused	Ensure accountable, ethical and best practice governance. Develop and maintain our Strategic Plan, Corporate Business Plan, Asset Management Plan, Workforce Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan Service Level Plans detail operational roles, responsibilities and resources Engage with local, regional, state and federal stakeholders to grow mutually beneficial relationships

Sustainability Implications:

- Environmental: There are no known significant environmental considerations.
- Economic: There are no known significant economic considerations.
- Social: There are no known significant social considerations.

Risk Implications:

Risk	Delayed payment of rates
Risk Likelihood (based on history and with existing controls)	Possible (3)
Risk Impact / Consequence	Moderate (3)
Risk Rating (Prior to Treatment or Control)	Medium (9)

Risk Matrix:

Consequence		Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
Likelihood		1	2	3	4	5
Almost Certain	5	Medium (5)	High (10)	High (15)	Extreme (20)	Extreme (25)
Likely	4	Low (4)	Medium (8)	High (12)	High (16)	Extreme (20)
Possible	3	Low (3)	Medium (6)	Medium (9)	High (12)	High (15)
Unlikely	2	Low (2)	Low (4)	Medium (6)	Medium (8)	High (10)
Rare	1	Low (1)	Low (2)	Low (3)	Low (4)	Medium (5)

A risk is often specified in terms of an event or circumstance and the consequences that may flow from it. A risk matrix has been prepared and a risk rating of 9 has been determined for this item. Any items with a risk rating over 10 or greater (considered to be high or extreme risk) will be added to the Risk Register, and any item with a risk rating of 16 or greater will require a specific risk treatment plan to be developed.

Voting Requirements:

Absolute Majority

Officer Recommendation:

That Council adopt the 2025/2026 Statutory Budget (as attached) inclusive of the following:

1. Rates

The following cents in the dollar and minimum rates apply for the 2025/2026 financial year:

Rate Category	Rate in the Dollar	Minimum Rate
GRV- Special Use, Residential, Rural Residential and Industrial	0.153200	\$1600.00
UV – Rural, Rural Residential & Mining	0.005158	\$1600.00

2. Rubbish and Recycling Charges

In accordance with Section 67 of the *Waste Avoidance and Resources Recovery Act 2007* (as amended) an annual rubbish and recycling charge is imposed:

Domestic/Commercial (includes recycling)

Once per week single bin pickup and once per fortnight recycling bin pickup = \$567.53 per annum

3. The following due dates for payment options are prescribed;

Option 1 – Full Payment due on or before:

28 September 2025 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rates notice, whichever is the later.

Option 2 - Two (2) instalments

- **First instalment to be made on or before 28 September 2025 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rate notice, whichever is the later, including all arrears and half the current rates and service charges; and**
- **Second instalment to be made on or before 2 December 2025 or two (2) months after the first instalment, whichever is the later.**

Option 3 - Four (4) instalments

- **First instalment to be made on or before 28 September 2025 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rate notice, whichever is the later including all arrears and a quarter of the current rates and service charges;**
- **Second instalment to be made on or before 02 December 2025 or two (2) months after the first instalment, whichever is the later;**
- **Third instalment to be made on or before 31 January 2026 or two (2) months after the second instalment, whichever is the later; and**
- **Fourth instalment to be made on or before 02 April 2026 or two (2) months after the third instalment, whichever is the later.**

An administration fee of \$10.00 per instalment applies, after the first instalment. Instalment interest of 5.5% also applies.

4. Alternative Methods of Payment

Ratepayers may elect to pay rates and charges by instalments other than those prescribed. Such an agreement will be subject to a \$25.00 administration fee. Outstanding rates will be subject to penalty interest.

5. Discount and concessions:

No discounts to be granted for the early payment of rates and service fees.

6. Interest on Outstanding Rates and Other Services

Penalty interest of eleven (11%) percent per annum, calculated daily by simple interest, will accrue on all rates that remain unpaid after they are due and payable.

7. Reserves Budget

Council Adopts the 2025/2026 Reserves Budget, as presented and incorporated into the 2025/2026 Annual Budget

8. In accordance with regulation 34 (5) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* and AASB 1031 Materiality, the level to be used in statements of financial activity in 2025/2026 for reporting material variances shall be 10% of the current budget. In addition, the material variance limit be applied to total revenue and expenditure for each nature and type classification and capital income and expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activity.

Moved: _____

Seconded: _____

Carried

For/Against: Cr Little ☐ Cr Price ☐ Cr Cowan ☐ Cr Hansen ☐ Cr Jennings ☐ Cr Turton ☐ Cr Watts ☐

SHIRE OF WANDERING
ANNUAL BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1995

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The Shire of Wandering a Class 4 local government conducts the operations of a local government with the following community vision:

Wandering is a community of responsible, resilient and adaptable residents thriving in our scenic, economically diverse environment.

SHIRE OF WANDERING
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

	Note	2025/26 Budget	2024/25 Actual	2024/25 Budget
Revenue		\$	\$	\$
Rates	2(a)	2,051,418	1,539,225	1,551,072
Grants, subsidies and contributions		691,632	860,492	529,100
Fees and charges	14	731,720	833,961	707,096
Interest revenue	10(a)	31,500	41,849	19,000
Other revenue		352,725	83,025	507,798
		3,858,995	3,358,552	3,314,066
Expenses				
Employee costs		(1,391,354)	(1,429,768)	(1,335,562)
Materials and contracts		(1,457,832)	(1,055,212)	(1,198,153)
Utility charges		(56,900)	(67,945)	(41,200)
Depreciation	6	(1,475,546)	(1,521,714)	(1,389,860)
Finance costs	10(c)	(29,496)	(12,396)	(28,294)
Insurance		(105,025)	(101,979)	(104,214)
Other expenditure		(54,984)	(539,713)	(43,658)
		(4,571,137)	(4,728,727)	(4,140,941)
		(712,142)	(1,370,175)	(826,875)
Capital grants, subsidies and contributions		3,642,725	2,069,023	2,067,614
Profit on asset disposals	5	155,402	74,224	92,215
Loss on asset disposals	5	0	(12,750)	(7)
Fair value adjustments to financial assets at fair value through profit or loss		0	(888)	0
		3,798,127	2,129,609	2,159,822
Net result for the period		3,085,985	759,434	1,332,947
Other comprehensive income for the period				
<i>Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss</i>				
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		0	784,561	0
Total other comprehensive income for the period		0	784,561	0
Total comprehensive income for the period		3,085,985	1,543,995	1,332,947

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

SHIRE OF WANDERING
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

		2025/26	2024/25	2024/25
	Note	Budget	Actual	Budget
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Receipts		\$	\$	\$
Rates		2,026,388	1,552,469	1,551,072
Grants, subsidies and contributions		691,632	598,512	550,152
Fees and charges		731,720	833,961	707,096
Interest revenue		31,500	41,849	19,000
Goods and services tax received		417,709	428,296	271,657
Other revenue		352,725	83,025	507,798
		4,251,674	3,538,112	3,606,775
Payments				
Employee costs		(1,391,354)	(1,385,567)	(1,335,562)
Materials and contracts		(1,292,457)	(602,477)	(964,153)
Utility charges		(56,900)	(67,945)	(41,200)
Finance costs		(29,496)	(13,202)	(28,294)
Insurance paid		(105,025)	(101,979)	(104,214)
Goods and services tax paid		(417,709)	(417,709)	(271,657)
Other expenditure		(54,984)	(539,713)	(43,658)
		(3,347,925)	(3,128,592)	(2,788,738)
Net cash provided by operating activities	4	903,749	409,520	818,037
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Payments for development of inventory - land held for resale	5(c)	(50,000)	(339,017)	(440,000)
Payments for purchase of property, plant & equipment	5(a)	(440,000)	(1,441,760)	(1,163,000)
Payments for construction of infrastructure	5(b)	(4,041,964)	(1,893,436)	(2,181,617)
Capital grants, subsidies and contributions		3,092,725	1,962,745	1,477,912
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	5(a)	264,000	353,977	406,500
Net cash (used in) investing activities		(1,175,239)	(1,357,491)	(1,900,205)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Repayment of borrowings	7(a)	(34,779)	(7,963)	(32,945)
Payments for principal portion of lease liabilities	8	(43,751)	(41,456)	(41,456)
Proceeds from new borrowings	7(a)	0	350,000	350,000
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities		(78,530)	300,581	275,599
Net (decrease) in cash held		(350,020)	(647,390)	(806,570)
Cash at beginning of year		876,141	1,523,531	1,653,757
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	4	526,121	876,141	847,187

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

SHIRE OF WANDERING
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Revenue from operating activities

General rates	
Rates excluding general rates	
Grants, subsidies and contributions	
Fees and charges	
Interest revenue	
Other revenue	
Profit on asset disposals	
Fair value adjustments to financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	

Expenditure from operating activities

Employee costs
Materials and contracts
Utility charges
Depreciation
Finance costs
Insurance
Other expenditure
Loss on asset disposals

Non cash amounts excluded from operating activities

Amount attributable to operating activities

INVESTING ACTIVITIES

Inflows from investing activities

Capital grants, subsidies and contributions
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment

Outflows from investing activities

Payments for inventory - land held for resale
Payments for property, plant and equipment
Payments for construction of infrastructure

Amount attributable to investing activities

FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Inflows from financing activities

Proceeds from new borrowings
Transfers from reserve accounts

Outflows from financing activities

Repayment of borrowings
Payments for principal portion of lease liabilities
Transfers to reserve accounts

Amount attributable to financing activities

MOVEMENT IN SURPLUS OR DEFICIT

Surplus at the start of the financial year

Amount attributable to operating activities
Amount attributable to investing activities
Amount attributable to financing activities

Surplus/(deficit) remaining after the imposition of general rates

Note	2025/26 Budget	2024/25 Actual	2024/25 Budget
	\$	\$	\$
2(a)(i)	2,046,583	1,591,161	1,589,875
2(a)	4,835	(51,936)	(38,803)
	691,632	860,492	529,100
14	731,720	833,961	707,096
10(a)	31,500	41,849	19,000
	352,725	83,025	507,798
5	155,402	74,224	92,215
	0	(888)	0
	4,014,397	3,431,888	3,406,281
	(1,391,354)	(1,429,768)	(1,335,562)
	(1,457,832)	(1,055,212)	(1,198,153)
	(56,900)	(67,945)	(41,200)
6	(1,475,546)	(1,521,714)	(1,389,860)
10(c)	(29,496)	(12,396)	(28,294)
	(105,025)	(101,979)	(104,214)
	(54,984)	(539,713)	(43,658)
5	0	(12,750)	(7)
	(4,571,137)	(4,741,477)	(4,140,948)
3(c)	1,321,107	1,905,061	1,302,771
	764,367	595,472	568,104
	3,642,725	2,069,023	2,067,614
5(a)	264,000	353,977	406,500
	3,906,725	2,423,000	2,474,114
5(c)	(50,000)	(339,017)	(440,000)
5(a)	(440,000)	(1,441,760)	(1,163,000)
5(b)	(4,041,964)	(1,893,436)	(2,181,617)
	(4,531,964)	(3,674,213)	(3,784,617)
	(625,239)	(1,251,213)	(1,310,503)
7(a)	0	350,000	350,000
9(a)	180,000	370,000	547,500
	180,000	720,000	897,500
7(a)	(34,779)	(7,963)	(32,945)
8	(43,751)	(41,456)	(41,456)
9(a)	(330,086)	(13,490)	(504,700)
	(408,616)	(62,909)	(579,101)
	(228,616)	657,091	318,399
3	89,488	88,138	424,000
	764,367	595,472	568,104
	(625,239)	(1,251,213)	(1,310,503)
	(228,616)	657,091	318,399
3	0	89,488	0

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**SHIRE OF WANDERING
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026
INDEX OF NOTES TO THE BUDGET**

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SHIRE OF WANDERING
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

1 BASIS OF PREPARATION

The annual budget of the Shire of Wandering which is a Class 4 local government is a forward looking document and has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995* and accompanying regulations.

Local Government Act 1995 requirements

Section 6.4(2) of the *Local Government Act 1995* read with the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* prescribe that the annual budget be prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995* and, to the extent that they are not inconsistent with the Act, the Australian Accounting Standards. The Australian Accounting Standards (as they apply to local governments and not-for-profit entities) and Interpretations of the Australian Accounting Standards Board were applied where no inconsistencies exist.

The *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* specify that vested land is a right-of-use asset to be measured at cost, and is considered a zero cost concessionary lease. All right-of-use assets under zero cost concessionary leases are measured at zero cost rather than at fair value, except for vested improvements on concessionary land leases such as roads, buildings or other infrastructure which continue to be reported at fair value, as opposed to the vested land which is measured at zero cost. The measurement of vested improvements at fair value is a departure from *AASB 16 Leases* which would have required the Shire to measure any vested improvements at zero cost.

Accounting policies which have been adopted in the preparation of this annual budget have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise. Except for cash flow and rate setting information, the annual budget has been prepared on the accrual basis and is based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and liabilities.

The local government reporting entity

All funds through which the Shire controls resources to carry on its functions have been included in the financial statements forming part of this annual budget.

All monies held in the Trust Fund are excluded from the financial statements. A separate statement of those monies appears at Note 11 to the annual budget.

2024/25 actual balances

Balances shown in this budget as 2024/25 Actual are estimates as forecast at the time of preparation of the annual budget and are subject to final adjustments.

Budget comparative figures

Unless otherwise stated, the budget comparative figures shown in the budget relate to the original budget estimate for the relevant item of disclosure.

Comparative figures

Where required, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

Rounding off figures

All figures shown in this statement are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Statement of Cashflows

Investing and financing transactions that do not require the use of cash or cash equivalents shall be excluded from a statement of cash flows. Such transactions shall be disclosed elsewhere in the financial statements in a way that provides all the relevant information about these investing and financing activities.

Initial application of accounting standards

During the budget year, the below revised Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations are expected to be compiled, become mandatory and be applicable to its operations.

- *AASB 2020-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards*
- *Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current*
- *AASB 2022-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards*
- *Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback*
- *AASB 2022-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards*
- *Non-current Liabilities with Covenants*
- *AASB 2023-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards*
- *Supplier Finance Arrangements*
- *AASB 2023-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards*
- *Disclosure of Non-current Liabilities with Covenants: Tier 2*
- *AASB 2024-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards*
- *Supplier Finance Arrangements: Tier 2 Disclosures*

It is not expected these standards will have an impact on the annual budget.

- *AASB 2022-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards*
- *Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities*, became mandatory during the budget year. Amendments to *AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement* impacts the future determination of fair value when revaluing assets using the cost approach. Timing of future revaluations is defined by regulation 17A of *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*. Impacts of this pronouncement are yet to be quantified and are dependent on the timing of future revaluations of asset classes. No material impact is expected in relation to the 2025-26 statutory budget.

New accounting standards for application in future years

The following new accounting standards will have application to local government in future years:

- *AASB 2014-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards*
- *Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture*
- *AASB 2024-4b Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards*
- *Effective Date of Amendments to AASB 10 and AASB 128 [deferred AASB 10 and AASB 128 amendments in AASB 2014-10 apply]*
- *AASB 2022-9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards*
- *Insurance Contracts in the Public Sector*
- *AASB 2023-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards*
- *Lack of Exchangeability*
- *AASB 18 (FP) Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements*
- *(Appendix D) [for for-profit entities]*
- *AASB 18 (NFP/super) Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements*
- *(Appendix D) [for not-for-profit and superannuation entities]*
- *AASB 2024-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards*
- *Classification and Measurement of Financial Instruments*
- *AASB 2024-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards*
- *Standards – Annual Improvements Volume 11*

It is not expected these standards will have an impact on the annual budget.

Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of the annual budget in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that effect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses.

The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances; the results of which form the basis of making the judgements about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

As with all estimates, the use of different assumptions could lead to material changes in the amounts reported in the financial report.

The following are estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year and further information on their nature and impact can be found in the relevant note:

- Fair value measurement of assets carried at reportable value including:
 - Property, plant and equipment
 - Infrastructure
- Expected credit losses on financial assets
- Assets held for sale
- Impairment losses of non-financial assets
- Investment property
- Estimated useful life of intangible assets
- Measurement of employee benefits
- Measurement of provisions

SHIRE OF WANDERING
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

2. RATES AND SERVICE CHARGES

(a) Rating Information

(a) Rating Information					2025/26	2025/26	2025/26	2024/25	2024/25
Rate Description	Basis of valuation	Rate in dollar	Number of properties	Rateable value*	Budgeted rate revenue	Budgeted interim rates	Budgeted total revenue	Actual total revenue	Budget total revenue
				\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
(i) General rates									
GRV Residential	Gross rental valuation	0.153200	34	406,640	62,297	0	62,297	54,185	54,185
GRV Special Use	Gross rental valuation	0.153200	2	127,920	19,597	0	19,597	17,045	17,045
GRV Rural Residential	Gross rental valuation	0.153200	57	771,170	118,143	0	118,143	101,368	101,165
GRV Industrial	Gross rental valuation	0.153200	2	35,360	5,417	0	5,417	4,712	4,712
UV Rural, Rural Residential and Min Unimproved valuation	Unimproved valuation	0.005158	133	298,629,000	1,540,329	0	1,540,329	1,148,478	1,148,478
Non Rateable	Non Rateable	0.000000	32	14,765	0	0	0	0	0
Total general rates			260	299,984,855	1,745,783	0	1,745,783	1,325,788	1,325,585
(ii) Minimum payment									
		Minimum							
		\$							
GRV Residential	Gross rental valuation	1,600	46	247,768	73,600	0	73,600	63,986	63,986
GRV Special Use	Gross rental valuation	1,600	2	14,133	3,200	0	3,200	2,782	2,782
GRV Rural Residential	Gross rental valuation	1,600	45	200,504	72,000	0	72,000	63,986	63,986
GRV Industrial	Gross rental valuation	1,600	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UV Rural, Rural Residential and Min Unimproved valuation	Unimproved valuation	1,600	95	18,438,335	152,000	0	152,000	134,619	133,536
Total minimum payments			188	18,900,740	300,800	0	300,800	265,373	264,290
Total general rates and minimum payments			448	318,885,595	2,046,583	0	2,046,583	1,591,161	1,589,875
(iii) Ex-gratia rates									
CBH Receival Bin	Tonnage	0.13582	1	35,600	4,835	0	4,835	4,205	4,753
Total ex-gratia rates			1	35,600	4,835	0	4,835	4,205	4,753
					2,051,418	0	2,051,418	1,595,366	1,594,628
Discounts (Refer note 2(e))							0	(56,072)	(43,556)
Rate write-offs							0	(69)	0
Total rates					2,051,418	0	2,051,418	1,539,225	1,551,072
Instalment plan charges							1,700	1,510	1,700
Instalment plan interest							2,500	2,014	3,000
Late payment of rate or service charge interest							5,000	5,012	6,500
							9,200	8,536	11,200

The Shire did not raise specified area rates for the year ended 30th June 2026.

*Rateable Value at time of adopting budget.

All rateable properties within the district used predominately for non-rural purposes are rated according to their Gross Rental Valuation (GRV), all other properties are rated according to their Unimproved Valuation (UV).

The general rates detailed for the 2025/26 financial year have been determined by Council on the basis of raising the revenue required to meet the estimated deficiency between the total estimated expenditure proposed in the budget and the estimated revenue to be received from all sources other than general rates and also considering the extent of any increase in rating over the level adopted in the previous year.

The minimum payments have been determined by Council on the basis that all ratepayers must make a reasonable contribution to the cost of local government services/facilities.

SHIRE OF WANDERING
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

2. RATES AND SERVICE CHARGES (CONTINUED)

(b) Interest Charges and Instalments - Rates and Service Charges

The following instalment options are available to ratepayers for the payment of rates and service charges.

Option 1 (Full Payment)

Full amount of rates and charges including arrears, to be paid on or before 28 September 2025 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rate notice, whichever is the later.

Option 2 (Two Instalments)

First instalment to be made on or before 28 September 2025 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rate notice, whichever is the later, including all arrears and half the current rates and service charges; and

Second instalment to be made on or before 02 December 2025 or 2 months after the first instalment, whichever is the later.

Option 3 (Four Instalments)

First instalment to be made on or before 28 September 2025 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rate notice, whichever is the later including all arrears and a quarter of the current rates and service charges;

Second instalment to be made on or before 02 December 2025 or 2 months after the first instalment, whichever is the later;

Third instalment to be made on or before 31 January 2026 or 2 months after the second instalment, whichever is the later; and

Fourth instalment to be made on or before 02 April 2026 or 2 months after the third instalment, whichever is the later.

Instalment options	Date due	Instalment plan admin charge	Instalment plan interest rate	Unpaid rates interest rates
		\$	%	%
Option one				
Single full payment	3/10/2025	0	0.00%	11.00%
Option two				
First instalment	3/10/2025	0	0.00%	11.00%
Second instalment	2/12/2025	10	5.50%	11.00%
Option three				
First instalment	3/10/2025	0	5.50%	11.00%
Second instalment	2/12/2025	10	5.50%	11.00%
Third instalment	31/01/2026	10	5.50%	11.00%
Fourth instalment	2/04/2026	10	5.50%	11.00%

SHIRE OF WANDERING
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

2. RATES AND SERVICE CHARGES (CONTINUED)

(d) Service Charges

The Shire did not raise service charges for the year ended 30th June 2026.

(e) Early payment discounts

Rate, fee or charge to which discount is granted	Type	Discount %	Discount (\$)	2025/26 Budget	2024/25 Actual	2024/25 Budget	Circumstances in which discount is granted
				\$	\$	\$	
Rates	Rate	0.0%		0	56,072	43,556	Payment of full rates owing including arrears and all other charges, received on or before 35 days after the date of service on the rate notice.
				0	56,072	43,556	

The Shire offered ratepayers with a discount of 5% under the circumstances prescribed above in the 2024/25 financial year. The discount has been discontinued in the 2025/25 financial year.

(f) Waivers or concessions

The Shire does not anticipate any waivers or concessions for the year ended 30th June 2026.

SHIRE OF WANDERING
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

3. NET CURRENT ASSETS

(a) Composition of estimated net current assets

Current assets

Cash and cash equivalents
Receivables
Contract assets
Inventories
Other assets

Less: current liabilities

Trade and other payables
Contract liabilities
Capital grant/contribution liability
Lease liabilities
Long term borrowings
Employee provisions
Other provisions

Net current assets

Less: Total adjustments to net current assets

Net current assets used in the Statement of Financial Activity

(b) Current assets and liabilities excluded from budgeted deficiency

The following current assets and liabilities have been excluded from the net current assets used in the Statement of Financial Activity in accordance with *Financial Management Regulation 32* to agree to the surplus/(deficit) after imposition of general rates.

Adjustments to net current assets

Less: Cash - reserve accounts
Add: Current liabilities not expected to be cleared at end of year
- Current portion of borrowings
- Current portion of lease liabilities
- Current portion of employee benefit provisions held in reserve

Total adjustments to net current assets

Note	2025/26 Budget 30 June 2026	2024/25 Actual 30 June 2025	2024/25 Budget 30 June 2025
	\$	\$	\$
4	526,121	876,141	847,187
	118,407	93,377	265,187
	355,814	355,814	0
	55,628	70,753	20,626
	51,482	51,482	385
	1,107,452	1,447,567	1,133,385
	(353,612)	(203,362)	(367,240)
	(59,013)	(59,013)	(66,108)
	(61,411)	(611,411)	0
8	0	(43,751)	0
7	0	(34,779)	0
	(201,957)	(201,957)	(122,784)
	(29,143)	(29,143)	(18,878)
	(705,136)	(1,183,416)	(575,010)
	402,316	264,151	558,375
3(b)	(402,316)	(174,663)	(558,375)
	0	89,488	0
9	(425,376)	(275,290)	(580,079)
	0	34,779	0
	0	43,751	0
	23,060	22,097	21,704
	(402,316)	(174,663)	(558,375)

EXPLANATION OF DIFFERENCE IN NET CURRENT ASSETS AND SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)

Items excluded from calculation of budgeted deficiency

When calculating the budget deficiency for the purpose of Section 6.2 (2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1995* the following amounts have been excluded as provided by *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 32* which will not fund the budgeted expenditure.

(c) Non-cash amounts excluded from operating activities

The following non-cash revenue or expenditure has been excluded from amounts attributable to operating activities within the Statement of Financial Activity in accordance with *Financial Management Regulation 32*.

Adjustments to operating activities

Less: Profit on asset disposals
Less: Impairment of land held for resale
Less: Fair value adjustments to financial assets at fair value through profit and loss
Add: Loss on asset disposals
Add: Depreciation
Movement in current employee provisions associated with restricted cash
Non-cash movements in non-current assets and liabilities:
- Pensioner deferred rates
- Employee provisions
- Employee provisions - on-costs
- Employee provisions - receivable

Non cash amounts excluded from operating activities

Note	2025/26 Budget 30 June 2026	2024/25 Actual 30 June 2025	2024/25 Budget 30 June 2025
	\$	\$	\$
5	(155,402)	(74,224)	(92,215)
	0	435,026	0
	0	888	0
5	0	12,750	7
6	1,475,546	1,521,714	1,389,860
	963	492	5,119
	0	(1,494)	0
	0	13,255	0
	0	1,222	0
	0	(4,568)	0
	1,321,107	1,905,061	1,302,771

SHIRE OF WANDERING
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

3. NET CURRENT ASSETS

(d) MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

CURRENT AND NON-CURRENT CLASSIFICATION

The asset or liability is classified as current if it is expected to be settled within the next 12 months, being the Shire's operational cycle. In the case of liabilities where the Shire does not have the unconditional right to defer settlement beyond 12 months, such as vested long service leave, the liability is classified as current even if not expected to be settled within the next 12 months. Inventories held for trading are classified as current or non-current based on the Shire's intentions to release for sale.

TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

Trade and other payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Shire prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid and arise when the Shire becomes obliged to make future payments in respect of the purchase of these goods and services. The amounts are unsecured, are recognised as a current liability and are normally paid within 30 days of recognition. The carrying amounts of trade and other payables are considered to be the same as their fair values, due to their short-term nature.

PREPAID RATES

Prepaid rates are, until the taxable event has occurred (start of the next financial year), refundable at the request of the ratepayer. Rates received in advance are initially recognised as a financial liability. When the taxable event occurs, the financial liability is extinguished and the Shire recognises revenue for the prepaid rates that have not been refunded.

INVENTORIES

General

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business less the estimated costs of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the sale.

SUPERANNUATION

The Shire contributes to a number of superannuation funds on behalf of employees. All funds to which the Shire contributes are defined contribution plans.

INVENTORY - LAND HELD FOR RESALE

Land held for development and sale is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost includes the cost of acquisition, development, borrowing costs and holding costs until completion of development. Finance costs and holding charges incurred after development is completed are expensed.

Gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss at the time of signing an unconditional contract of sale if significant risks and rewards, and effective control over the land, are passed on to the buyer at this point.

Inventory - land held for resale is classified as current except where it is held as non-current based on the Shire's intentions to release for sale.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are presented as operating cash flows.

CONTRACT LIABILITIES

Contract liabilities represent the Shire's obligation to transfer goods or services to a customer for which the Shire has received consideration from the customer.

Contract liabilities represent obligations which are not yet satisfied. Contract liabilities are recognised as revenue when the performance obligations in the contract are satisfied.

TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

Trade and other receivables include amounts due from ratepayers for unpaid rates and service charges and other amounts due from third parties for grants, contributions, reimbursements, and goods sold and services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade and other receivables are recognised initially at the amount of consideration that is unconditional, unless they contain significant financing components, when they are recognised at fair value.

Trade receivables are held with the objective to collect the contractual cashflows and therefore the Shire measures them subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Due to the short term nature of current receivables, their carrying amount is considered to be the same as their fair value. Non-current receivables are indexed to inflation, any difference between the face value and fair value is considered immaterial.

The Shire applies the AASB 9 simplified approach to measuring expected credit losses using a lifetime expected loss allowance for all trade receivables. To measure the expected credit losses, rates receivable are separated from other trade receivables due to the difference in payment terms and security for rates receivable.

PROVISIONS

Provisions are recognised when the Shire has a present legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

Provisions are measured using the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Short-term employee benefits

Provision is made for the Shire's obligations for short-term employee benefits. Short term employee benefits are benefits (other than termination benefits) that are expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, including wages, salaries and sick leave. Short-term employee benefits are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled.

The Shire's obligations for short-term employee benefits such as wages, salaries and sick leave are recognised as a part of current trade and other payables in the determination of the net current asset position.

The Shire's obligations for employees' annual leave and long service leave entitlements are recognised as provisions in the determination of the net current asset position.

Other long-term employee benefits

Long-term employee benefits provisions are measured at the present value of the expected future payments to be made to employees. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations of service and employee departures and are discounted at rates determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on government bonds that have maturity dates that approximate the terms of the obligations. Any remeasurements for changes in assumptions of obligations for other long-term employee benefits are recognised in profit or loss in the periods in which the changes occur.

The Shire's obligations for long-term employee benefits are presented as non-current provisions in its statement of financial position, except where the Shire does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period, in which case the obligations are presented as current provisions.

CONTRACT ASSETS

Contract assets primarily relate to the Shire's right to consideration for work completed but not billed at the end of the period.

SHIRE OF WANDERING
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

4. RECONCILIATION OF CASH

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash and cash equivalents, net of outstanding bank overdrafts. Estimated cash at the end of the reporting period is as follows:

	Note	2025/26 Budget	2024/25 Actual	2024/25 Budget
		\$	\$	\$
Cash at bank and on hand		526,121	876,141	847,187
Total cash and cash equivalents		526,121	876,141	847,187
Held as				
- Unrestricted cash and cash equivalents		39,334	(10,560)	267,108
- Restricted cash and cash equivalents		486,787	886,701	580,079
	3(a)	526,121	876,141	847,187
Restrictions				
The following classes of assets have restrictions imposed by regulations or other externally imposed requirements which limit or direct the purpose for which the resources may be used:				
- Cash and cash equivalents		486,787	886,701	580,079
		486,787	886,701	580,079
The assets are restricted as a result of the specified purposes associated with the liabilities below:				
Reserve accounts	9	425,376	275,290	580,079
Unspent capital grants, subsidies and contribution liabilities		61,411	611,411	0
		486,787	886,701	580,079
Reconciliation of net cash provided by operating activities to net result				
Net result		3,085,985	759,434	1,332,947
Depreciation	6	1,475,546	1,521,714	1,389,860
(Profit)/loss on sale of asset	5	(155,402)	(61,474)	(92,208)
Adjustments to fair value of financial assets at fair value through profit and loss		0	888	0
Impairment of land held for resale		0	435,026	0
(Increase)/decrease in receivables		(25,030)	9,133	21,052
(Increase)/decrease in contract assets		0	(230,667)	0
(Increase)/decrease in inventories		15,125	(22,595)	32,000
(Increase)/decrease in other assets		0	(15,419)	0
Increase/(decrease) in payables		150,250	53,505	202,000
Increase/(decrease) in contract liabilities		0	(16,615)	0
Increase/(decrease) in unspent capital grants		(550,000)	(109,807)	(589,702)
Increase/(decrease) in employee provision on-costs		0	3,529	0
Increase/(decrease) in employee provisions		0	45,613	0
Capital grants, subsidies and contributions		(3,092,725)	(1,962,745)	(1,477,912)
Net cash from operating activities		903,749	409,520	818,037

MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICES

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, cash at bank, deposits available on demand with banks, other short term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value and bank overdrafts.

Bank overdrafts are shown as short term borrowings in current liabilities in Note 3 - Net Current Assets.

FINANCIAL ASSETS AT AMORTISED COST

The Shire classifies financial assets at amortised cost if both of the following criteria are met:

- the asset is held within a business model whose objective is to collect the contractual cashflows, and
- the contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest.

SHIRE OF WANDERING
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

5. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

The following assets are budgeted to be acquired and/or disposed of during the year.

	2025/26 Budget					2024/25 Actual					2024/25 Budget				
	Additions	Disposals - Net Book Value	Disposals - Sale Proceeds	Disposals - Profit	Disposals - Loss	Additions	Disposals - Net Book Value	Disposals - Sale Proceeds	Disposals - Profit	Disposals - Loss	Additions	Disposals - Net Book Value	Disposals - Sale Proceeds	Disposals - Profit	Disposals - Loss
(a) Property, Plant and Equipment															
Buildings - non-specialised	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0	0	0	0	0	202,000	0	0	0	0
Buildings - specialised	9,000	0	0	0	0	478,572	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Furniture and equipment	22,000	0	0	0	0	29,546	0	0	0	0	32,000	0	0	0	0
Plant and equipment	409,000	(108,598)	264,000	155,402	0	933,642	(292,503)	353,977	74,224	(12,750)	929,000	(314,292)	406,500	92,215	(7)
Total	440,000	(108,598)	264,000	155,402	0	1,441,760	(292,503)	353,977	74,224	(12,750)	1,163,000	(314,292)	406,500	92,215	(7)
(b) Infrastructure															
Infrastructure - roads	2,884,651	0	0	0	0	1,859,786	0	0	0	0	2,148,453	0	0	0	0
Infrastructure - footpaths	5,902	0	0	0	0	33,650	0	0	0	0	33,164	0	0	0	0
Other infrastructure - bridges	1,151,411	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4,041,964	0	0	0	0	1,893,436	0	0	0	0	2,181,617	0	0	0	0
(c) Inventory - Land held for resale															
Cost of acquisition	50,000	0	0	0	0	339,017	0	0	0	0	440,000	0	0	0	0
	50,000	0	0	0	0	339,017	0	0	0	0	440,000	0	0	0	0
Total	4,531,964	(108,598)	264,000	155,402	0	3,674,213	(292,503)	353,977	74,224	(12,750)	3,784,617	(314,292)	406,500	92,215	(7)

MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

RECOGNITION OF ASSETS

Assets for which the fair value as at the date of acquisition is under \$5,000 are not recognised as an asset in accordance with *Financial Management Regulation 17A (5)*. These assets are expensed immediately.

Where multiple individual low value assets are purchased together as part of a larger asset or collectively forming a larger asset exceeding the threshold, the individual assets are recognised as one asset and capitalised.

GAINS AND LOSSES ON DISPOSAL

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included in profit or loss in the period which they arise.

SHIRE OF WANDERING
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

6. DEPRECIATION

By Class

Buildings - non-specialised
Buildings - specialised
Furniture and equipment
Plant and equipment
Infrastructure - roads
Infrastructure - footpaths
Infrastructure - recreation
Infrastructure - other
Infrastructure - drainage
Other infrastructure - bridges
Right of use - plant and equipment

By Program

Governance
Law, order, public safety
Housing
Community amenities
Recreation and culture
Transport
Economic services
Other property and services

2025/26 Budget	2024/25 Actual	2024/25 Budget
\$	\$	\$
25,987	26,800	25,795
68,837	70,991	60,785
10,377	10,702	4,824
274,741	283,337	237,283
542,930	559,918	526,403
6,794	7,007	5,970
51,206	52,808	50,829
21,444	22,115	21,286
58,310	60,134	57,216
371,795	383,428	368,419
43,125	44,474	31,050
1,475,546	1,521,714	1,389,860
1,250	1,318	656
73,848	73,374	61,629
26,785	26,800	26,961
11,992	11,998	12,071
81,244	83,878	74,209
1,009,934	1,010,487	1,001,306
23,421	23,433	24,589
247,072	290,426	188,439
1,475,546	1,521,714	1,389,860

MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

DEPRECIATION

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets including buildings but excluding freehold land, are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the individual asset's useful life from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful life of the improvements.

The assets residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Major depreciation periods used for each class of depreciable asset are:

Asset Class	Useful life
Buildings	40 to 50 years
Furniture and equipment	3 to 10 years
Plant and equipment	3 to 10 years
Sealed roads and streets	
formation	not depreciated
pavement	20-50 years
seal	
- bituminous seals	15-20 years
- asphalt surfaces	15-25 years
Gravel roads	
formation	not depreciated
pavement	50 years
Footpaths - slab	20 years
Sewerage piping	100 years
Water supply piping and drainage	
systems	50 years
Recreation assets	4 to 50 years
Other assets	4 to 50 years
Bridges	4 to 50 years

AMORTISATION

The depreciable amount of all intangible assets with a finite useful life, are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the individual asset's useful life from the time the asset is held for use.

The assets residual value of intangible assets is considered to be zero and useful live and amortisation method are reviewed at the end of each financial year.

Amortisation is included within Depreciation on non-current assets in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

SHIRE OF WANDERING
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

7. BORROWINGS

(a) Borrowing repayments

Movement in borrowings and interest between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.

Purpose	Loan Number	Institution	Interest Rate	Budget Principal 1 July 2025	2025/26 Budget New Loans	2025/26 Budget Principal Repayments	Budget Principal outstanding 30 June 2026	2025/26 Budget Interest Repayments	Actual Principal 1 July 2024	2024/25 Actual New Loans	2024/25 Actual Principal Repayments	Actual Principal outstanding 30 June 2025	2024/25 Actual Interest Repayments	Budget Principal 1 July 2024	2024/25 Budget New Loans	2024/25 Budget Principal Repayments	Budget Principal outstanding 30 June 2025	2024/25 Budget Interest Repayments
				\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Industrial Estate Development	10	WATC	4.4949%	63,009	0	(6,626)	56,383	(2,795)	70,972	0	(7,963)	63,009	(3,006)	70,972	0	(4,570)	66,402	(3,302)
Industrial Estate Development	11	WATC	4.6949%	350,000	0	(28,153)	321,847	(16,106)	0	350,000	0	350,000	0	0	350,000	(28,375)	321,625	(15,602)
				413,009	0	(34,779)	378,230	(18,901)	70,972	350,000	(7,963)	413,009	(3,006)	70,972	350,000	(32,945)	388,027	(18,904)

All borrowing repayments will be financed by general purpose revenue.

SHIRE OF WANDERING
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE BUDGET
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

7. BORROWINGS

(b) New borrowings - 2025/26

The Shire does not intend to undertake any new borrowings for the year ended 30th June 2026

(c) Unspent borrowings

The Shire had no unspent borrowing funds as at 30th June 2025 nor is it expected to have unspent borrowing funds as at 30th June 2026.

(d) Credit Facilities

	2025/26 Budget	2024/25 Actual	2024/25 Budget
	\$	\$	\$
Undrawn borrowing facilities			
credit standby arrangements			
Bank overdraft limit	300,000	300,000	0
Bank overdraft at balance date	0	0	0
Credit card limit	5,000	5,000	5,000
Credit card balance at balance date	0	0	0
Total amount of credit unused	305,000	305,000	5,000
Loan facilities			
Loan facilities in use at balance date	378,230	413,009	388,027
Unused loan facilities at balance date	0	10,983	0

MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BORROWING COSTS

The Shire has elected to recognise borrowing costs as an expense when incurred regardless of how the borrowings are applied.

Fair values of borrowings are not materially different to their carrying amounts, since the interest payable on those borrowings is either close to current market rates or the borrowings are of a short term nature.

Borrowings fair values are based on discounted cash flows using a current borrowing rate.

SHIRE OF WANDERING
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

8. LEASE LIABILITIES

Purpose	Lease Number	Institution	Lease Interest Rate	Lease Term	Budget Lease Principal	2025/26 Budget New Leases	2025/26 Budget Lease Principal Repayments	Budget Lease Principal outstanding	2025/26 Budget Lease Interest Repayments	Actual Principal	2024/25 Actual New Leases	2024/25 Actual Lease Principal repayments	Actual Lease Principal outstanding	2024/25 Actual Lease Interest repayments	Budget Principal	2024/25 Budget New Leases	2024/25 Budget Lease Principal repayments	Budget Lease Principal outstanding	2024/25 Budget Lease Interest repayments
					1 July 2025			30 June 2026		1 July 2024			30 June 2025		1 July 2024			30 June 2025	
JCB Excavator	1	AG Equipment	5.40%	5 years	\$ 151,252	\$ 0	\$ (43,751)	\$ 107,501	\$ (7,095)	\$ 192,708	\$ 0	\$ (41,456)	\$ 151,252	\$ (9,390)	\$ 192,709	\$ 0	\$ (41,456)	\$ 151,253	\$ (9,390)
					151,252	0	(43,751)	107,501	(7,095)	192,708	0	(41,456)	151,252	(9,390)	192,709	0	(41,456)	151,253	(9,390)

MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

LEASES

At the inception of a contract, the Shire assesses whether the contract is, or contains, a lease. A contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

At the commencement date, a right-of-use asset is recognised at cost and a lease liability at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at that date. The lease payments are discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease, if that rate can be readily determined. If that rate cannot be readily determined, the Shire uses its incremental borrowing rate.

LEASE LIABILITIES

The present value of future lease payments not paid at the reporting date discounted using the incremental borrowing rate where the implicit interest rate in the lease is not readily determined.

SHIRE OF WANDERING
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

9. RESERVE ACCOUNTS

(a) Reserve Accounts - Movement

	2025/26 Budget				2024/25 Actual				2024/25 Budget			
	Opening Balance	Transfer to	Transfer (from)	Closing Balance	Opening Balance	Transfer to	Transfer (from)	Closing Balance	Opening Balance	Transfer to	Transfer (from)	Closing Balance
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Restricted by council												
(a) Leave reserve	22,097	963	0	23,060	21,605	492	0	22,097	16,583	5,120	0	21,703
(b) Land & building reserve	87,729	3,824	0	91,553	256,873	5,856	(175,000)	87,729	256,538	6,853	0	263,391
(c) Plant replacement reserve	3,662	318,246	(145,000)	176,908	169,792	3,870	(170,000)	3,662	182,395	470,518	(522,500)	130,413
(d) Office equipment reserve	16,860	735	0	17,595	40,927	933	(25,000)	16,860	40,873	5,295	(25,000)	21,168
(e) Fuel facility reserve	104,942	4,574	0	109,516	102,603	2,339	0	104,942	86,490	16,625	0	103,115
(f) WSFN funding reserve	40,000	1,744	(35,000)	6,744	40,000	0	0	40,000	40,000	289	0	40,289
	275,290	330,086	(180,000)	425,376	631,800	13,490	(370,000)	275,290	622,879	504,700	(547,500)	580,079

(b) Reserve Accounts - Purposes

In accordance with Council resolutions in relation to each reserve account, the purpose for which the reserves are set aside are as follows:

Reserve name	Anticipated date of use	Purpose of the reserve
Restricted by legislation		
Restricted by council		
(a) Leave reserve	Ongoing	For the payment of long service leave
(b) Land & building reserve	2025/2026	For the purchase of land and buildings, and major repairs/upgrading of existing buildings
(c) Plant replacement reserve	Ongoing	For the purchase and replacement of plant and equipment
(d) Office equipment reserve	Ongoing	For the replacement of office equipment
(e) Fuel facility reserve	2027/2028	For the renewal or replacement of fuel facility equipment
(f) WSFN funding reserve	2026/2027	To assist in financing Councils contribution to Western Secondary Freight Network Works Program

SHIRE OF WANDERING
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

10. OTHER INFORMATION

	2025/26 Budget	2024/25 Actual	2024/25 Budget
The net result includes as revenues	\$	\$	\$
(a) Interest earnings			
Investments	24,000	34,823	9,500
Other interest revenue	7,500	7,026	9,500
	31,500	41,849	19,000
The net result includes as expenses			
(b) Auditors remuneration			
Audit services	41,099	38,500	32,000
Other services	0	4,080	0
	41,099	42,580	32,000
(c) Interest expenses (finance costs)			
Borrowings (refer Note 7(a))	18,901	3,006	18,904
Interest on lease liabilities (refer Note 8)	7,095	9,390	9,390
Interest on bank overdraft	3,500	0	0
	29,496	12,396	28,294
(d) Write offs			
General rate	0	69	0
	0	69	0

SHIRE OF WANDERING
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

11. COUNCIL MEMBERS REMUNERATION

	2025/26 Budget	2024/25 Actual	2024/25 Budget
	\$	\$	\$
President			
President's allowance	6,400	6,270	6,270
Meeting attendance fees	4,000	3,560	3,884
Annual allowance for ICT expenses	1,100	1,090	1,100
Travel and accommodation expenses	10,000	10,732	214
	21,500	21,652	11,468
Deputy president			
Deputy President's allowance	1,600	1,000	1,000
Meeting attendance fees	4,000	4,439	3,884
Annual allowance for ICT expenses	1,100	1,090	1,100
Travel and accommodation expenses	214	0	215
	6,914	6,529	6,199
Council member 3			
Meeting attendance fees	4,000	3,884	3,884
Annual allowance for ICT expenses	1,100	1,090	1,100
Travel and accommodation expenses	214	0	214
	5,314	4,974	5,198
Council member 4			
Meeting attendance fees	4,000	3,560	3,884
Annual allowance for ICT expenses	1,100	1,090	1,100
Travel and accommodation expenses	214	0	214
	5,314	4,650	5,198
Council member 5			
Meeting attendance fees	4,000	3,884	3,884
Annual allowance for ICT expenses	1,100	1,090	1,100
Travel and accommodation expenses	214	52	215
	5,314	5,026	5,199
Council member 6			
Meeting attendance fees	4,000	3,329	3,884
Annual allowance for ICT expenses	1,100	1,090	1,100
Travel and accommodation expenses	214	0	214
	5,314	4,419	5,198
Council member 7			
Meeting attendance fees	4,000	3,884	3,884
Annual allowance for ICT expenses	1,100	1,090	1,100
Travel and accommodation expenses	214	0	214
	5,314	4,974	5,198
Total Council Member Remuneration	54,984	52,224	43,658
President's allowance	6,400	6,270	6,270
Deputy President's allowance	1,600	1,000	1,000
Meeting attendance fees	28,000	26,540	27,188
Annual allowance for ICT expenses	7,700	7,630	7,700
Travel and accommodation expenses	11,284	10,784	1,500
	54,984	52,224	43,658

SHIRE OF WANDERING
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

12. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

(a) Revenue and Expenditure Classification

REVENUES

RATES

All rates levied under the *Local Government Act 1995*. Includes general, differential, specific area rates, minimum payment, interim rates, back rates, ex-gratia rates, less discounts offered.

Exclude administration fees, interest on instalments, interest on arrears, service charges and sewerage rates.

GRANTS, SUBSIDIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

All amounts received as grants, subsidies and contributions that are not capital grants.

CAPITAL GRANTS, SUBSIDIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Amounts received specifically for the acquisition, construction of new or the upgrading of non-current assets paid to a local government, irrespective of whether these amounts are received as capital grants, subsidies, contributions or donations.

REVENUE FROM CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS

Revenue from contracts with customers is recognised when the local government satisfies its performance obligations under the contract.

FEES AND CHARGES

Revenues (other than service charges) from the use of facilities and charges made for local government services, sewerage rates, rentals, hire charges, fee for service, photocopying charges, licences, sale of goods or information, fines, penalties and administration fees.

Local governments may wish to disclose more detail such as rubbish collection fees, rental of property, fines and penalties, other fees and charges.

SERVICE CHARGES

Service charges imposed under *Division 6 of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 1995*. Regulation 54 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* identifies the charges which can be raised. These are television and radio broadcasting, underground electricity and neighbourhood surveillance services and water. Exclude rubbish removal charges which should not be classified as a service charge. Interest and other items of a similar nature received from bank and investment accounts, interest on rate instalments, interest on rate arrears and interest on debtors.

INTEREST REVENUE

Interest and other items of a similar nature received from bank and investment accounts, interest on rate instalments, interest on rate arrears and interest on debtors.

OTHER REVENUE / INCOME

Other revenue, which cannot be classified under the above headings, includes dividends, discounts, rebates etc.

PROFIT ON ASSET DISPOSAL

Gain on the disposal of assets including gains on the disposal of long-term investments.

EXPENSES

EMPLOYEE COSTS

All costs associated with the employment of person such as salaries, wages, allowances, benefits such as vehicle and housing, superannuation, employment expenses, removal expenses, relocation expenses, worker's compensation insurance, training costs, conferences, safety expenses, medical examinations, fringe benefit tax, etc.

Note AASB 119 *Employee Benefits* provides a definition of employee benefits which should be considered.

MATERIALS AND CONTRACTS

All expenditures on materials, supplies and contracts not classified under other headings. These include supply of goods and materials, legal expenses, consultancy, maintenance agreements, communication expenses (such as telephone and internet charges), advertising expenses, membership, periodicals, publications, hire expenses, rental, leases, postage and freight etc.

Local governments may wish to disclose more detail such as contract services, consultancy, information technology and rental or lease expenditures.

UTILITIES (GAS, ELECTRICITY, WATER)

Expenditures made to the respective agencies for the provision of power, gas or water.

Exclude expenditures incurred for the reinstatement of roadwork on behalf of these agencies.

INSURANCE

All insurance other than worker's compensation and health benefit insurance included as a cost of employment.

LOSS ON ASSET DISPOSAL

Loss on the disposal of fixed assets.

DEPRECIATION ON NON-CURRENT ASSETS

Depreciation and amortisation expenses raised on all classes of assets.

FINANCE COSTS

Interest and other costs of finance paid, including costs of finance for loan debentures, overdraft accommodation and refinancing expenses.

OTHER EXPENDITURE

Statutory fees, taxes, provision for bad debts, member's fees or levies including DFES levy and State taxes. Donations and subsidies made to community groups.

SHIRE OF WANDERING
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

12. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

(b) Revenue Recognition

Recognition of revenue from contracts with customers is dependant on the source of revenue and the associated terms and conditions associated with each source of revenue and recognised as follows:

Revenue Category	Nature of goods and services	When obligations typically satisfied	Payment terms	Returns/Refunds/Warranties	Timing of Revenue recognition
Grants, subsidies and contributions	Community events, minor facilities, research, design, planning evaluation and services	Over time	Fixed terms transfer of funds based on agreed milestones and reporting	Contract obligation if project not complete	Output method based on project milestones and/or completion date matched to performance obligations
Fees and charges - licences, registrations, approvals	Building, planning, development and animal management, having the same nature as a licence regardless of naming.	Single point in time	Full payment prior to issue	None	On payment of the licence, registration or approval
Fees and charges - waste management entry fees	Waste treatment, recycling and disposal service at disposal sites	Single point in time	Payment in advance at gate or on normal trading terms if credit provided	None	On entry to facility
Fees and charges - sale of stock	Fuel, post office agency and community resource centre stock	Single point in time	In full in advance, on 15 day credit	Refund for faulty goods	Output method based on goods
Fees and charges for other goods and services	Cemetery services, library fees, reinstatements and private works	Single point in time	Payment in full in advance	None	Output method based on provision of service or completion of works

SHIRE OF WANDERING
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

13. PROGRAM INFORMATION

Key Terms and Definitions - Reporting Programs

In order to discharge its responsibilities to the community, Council has developed a set of operational and financial objectives. These objectives have been established both on an overall basis, reflected by the Shire's Community Vision, and for each of its broad activities/programs.

OBJECTIVE

ACTIVITIES

Governance

To provide a decision making process for the efficient allocation of scarce resources.

Members expenses and other costs of the shire that relate to the tasks of assisting Councillors and the public on matters which do not concern specific Council services.

General purpose funding

To collect revenue to allow for the provision of services.

Collection of rates revenue, financial assistance grants for general purpose and interest revenue.

Law, order, public safety

Supervision by various by-laws, fire prevention and animal control.

Fire prevention
Animal control
Other

Health

To provide services for community and environmental health.

Health inspection and advisory services, analytical services, pest and weed control, and assistance to provide health initiatives.

Education and welfare

To support services relating to youth, elderly and the disadvantaged.

Support school activities, aged care initiatives and disability inclusion plan.

Housing

Provision of shire housing and privately rented accommodation.

Management and maintenance for shire housing privately rented while not required by staff and provision of rental accommodation to the WA Housing Authority for teachers accommodation.

Community amenities

To provide amenities required by the community.

Rubbish collection services and operation of waste transfer station. Maintenance of cemeteries and public conveniences. Administration of town planning activities.

Recreation and culture

To establish and maintain infrastructure and resources to meet the recreational and cultural needs of the community.

Maintenance of halls, playgrounds, recreation grounds and reserves. Operation of library and maintenance of heritage and history inventory.

Transport

To provide safe and effective transport services to the community.

Construction and maintenance of streets, roads, bridges, signage and footpaths. Cleaning and lighting of town streets. Depot maintenance.

Economic services

To help promote Wandering and its economic wellbeing.

Tourism and area promotion including operation of caravan park. Implementation of building control and provision of a fuel facility, postal agency and Community Resource Centre.

Other property and services

To monitor and control operating accounts.

Provisions of private work operations, plant repairs, operation costs and all administration costs.

SHIRE OF WANDERING
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE BUDGET
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

14. FEES AND CHARGES

	2025/26 Budget	2024/25 Actual	2024/25 Budget
	\$	\$	\$
By Program:			
General purpose funding	3,200	3,730	3,200
Law, order, public safety	5,750	6,271	5,750
Health	1,000	781	1,000
Housing	33,480	38,772	33,480
Community amenities	56,870	56,450	56,789
Recreation and culture	3,000	2,737	3,000
Transport	1,500	0	1,500
Economic services	621,920	717,308	585,377
Other property and services	5,000	7,912	17,000
	731,720	833,961	707,096

The subsequent pages detail the fees and charges proposed to be imposed by the local government.

14 Planning and Technical Services

Nil.

15. Elected Members Motions of Which Previous Notice Has Been Given

Nil.

16. New Business or Urgent Business Introduced by Decision of the Meeting

New business of an urgent nature introduced by decision of the meeting. Best practice provides that Council should only consider items that have been included on the Agenda (to allow ample time for Councillors to research prior to the meeting) and which have an Officer Report (to provide the background to the issue and a recommended decision).

16.1 Elected Members

16.2 Officers

17. Matters Behind Closed Doors

18. Closure of Meeting

The Presiding Member to declare the meeting closed.