

A Message from Shire President

## Vivienne MacCarthy



The Annual Budget for the 2025-2026 period represents the next step in our shared journey toward financial sustainability, service delivery, and community wellbeing. It builds on the foundations laid last year and reflects a careful balance between affordability and progress, while continuing to deliver on the priorities outlined in the Council Plan.

This year's Budget supports the services and infrastructure we all rely on – roads, bridges, parks, libraries, recreation centres, and waste management – alongside funding for other priority areas such as environmental initiatives, community housing, and emergency services. It also includes key capital works across the district, and sets aside savings for future asset renewal.

Council has taken a strategic approach to financial planning, guided by recent reviews of the Long-Term Financial Plan, Asset Management Plan, and Corporate Business Plan. We've endorsed a framework focused on increasing revenue, reviewing service levels, and optimising our asset base to ensure long-term sustainability.

The past year has also highlighted the resilience of our community. The Irishtown Road Bridge incident was a significant challenge, and I want to thank residents for their patience and cooperation. Your support has helped guide Council's response and recovery efforts. I also extend my sincere appreciation to our volunteers, community groups, and emergency services. Your ongoing contributions, whether through sport, culture, environment, or public safety, continue to strengthen our Shire and bring people together.

On behalf of all Councillors and Shire staff, thank you for your continued support. I encourage you to review the budget materials and reach out with any questions.

**Together, we are building a stronger, more sustainable future for the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup.**

### Contact the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup



1 Bentley Street, Donnybrook, WA 6239



8:30am - 4:00pm, Monday - Friday  
(closed on public holidays & where otherwise specified)



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Post: PO Box 94, Donnybrook, WA 6239  
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### Find more information online

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## 2025-2026 Budget & Rates Information

Working towards achieving our shared vision:  
*A proud community enjoying our rural lifestyle,  
cultural heritage and natural environment.*



## The Annual Budget & how your rates contribute to the community

Rates contribute towards funding essential services and facilities we all rely on, including local roads, parks, waste management, recreational facilities and events.



### **Libraries & Recreation Centres: \$2.13m**

*Funding allocated to running our local community services and facilities*



### **Parks & Open Spaces: \$1.84m**

*Funding for the maintenance and upkeep of our shared spaces and outdoor areas*



### **Infrastructure Maintenance: \$1.52m**

*Allocated to the maintenance of key infrastructure such as roads and bridges*



### **Capital Asset Expenditure: \$3.44m**

*Allocated to specific Capital Assets, usually per certain grant funding requirements*



### **Community Housing: \$0.57m**

*Funding towards retirement homes and community housing initiatives*



### **Capital Infrastructure Projects: \$3.88m**

*Funding allocated to specific Capital Works projects for roads and bridges*



### **Emergency Management: \$1.57m**

*For bush fire brigades and public safety activities such as mitigation works, etc.*



### **Building Maintenance: \$0.66m**

*Allocated towards the general upkeep and maintenance of Shire-owned buildings*



### **Waste Management: \$1.33m**

*Funding for residential bin collection services and waste management facilities*



### **Transfer to Reserves: \$1.92m**

*Savings set aside for future use towards asset maintenance and renewal, etc.*



- **Opening Funds: \$1.42m (6.48%)**  
*Carried across from last financial year, inc. \$1.27m pre-payment of 25/26 Federal Grant*
- **Operational Grants & Support: \$2.07m (9.45%)**  
*Funding, subsidies and other contributions received for general services, facilities, etc.*
- **Capital Grants & Support: \$4.16m (18.99%)**  
*Funding, subsidies and other contributions received for Capital projects, infrastructure, etc.*
- **Rates Revenue: \$8.48m (38.73%)**  
*Contributes towards essential services and facilities, community assets, etc.*
- **Fees & Charges: \$2.76m (12.63%)**  
*Income from user-pays services such as hall hire, general waste facility access, etc.*
- **Transferred from Reserves: \$2.23m (10.17%)**  
*Savings allocated to asset maintenance and renewal, transferred from Reserve Accounts*
- **Other: \$0.78m (3.55%)**  
*Interest Revenue and other minor income sources*

## Other items on your notice:

**Emergency Services Levy (ESL)** funds emergency services and is set by DFES.

**Rubbish bin fees** are listed separately to show the cost of waste management.

**Pools and spas** are inspected every 4 years with the fee split across 4 annual rate payments.

## How your rates are calculated

Rates notices are sent to landowners each year and can be paid annually or by instalments. Additional notices are sent when each payment is due.

Each property is issued a valuation by Landgate, which determines your rates. Your property is valued using one of the following:

### Gross Rental Value (GRV)

GRV applies to non-rural land and is revalued every 6 years, most recently completed in 2024. It's the total annual rent a property might reasonably be expected to earn each year if rented out. For vacant land, GRV is calculated using a statutory rate of the Unimproved Value (UV) – 3% for properties designated as residential, and 5% for non-residential.

### Unimproved Value (UV)

UV applies predominantly to rural land, which is revalued every year. It reflects the value of the land only, not including buildings, structures or improvements.

Your rates are calculated by multiplying your property's GRV or UV by the rate in the dollar set by Council. An 8% increase in total rate revenue in the 2025-2026 budget helps to cover rising costs and set aside funds for future projects. Based on this year's budget, a 1% increase in rates from 2024-2025 equals approximately \$78,414.

<b>GRV or UV Valuation</b> (\$ value)	x	<b>Rate in the Dollar</b> (\$ value)	=	<b>Rates Payable</b> (\$ value)
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Here is an example of calculating with GRV:

\$ 20,000	x	\$ 0.099379	=	\$ 1,987.58
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Here is an example of calculating with UV:

\$ 430,000	x	\$ 0.004877	=	\$ 2,097.11
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A minimum rate is also set each year, which applies to a property if the calculated rates are lower than the minimum. For 2025-2026, this is \$1,800.