A MESSAGE FROM THE SHIRE PRESIDENT

Vivienne MacCarthy

The 2026-2027 Budget outlines how we are delivering on the priorities of our new Council Plan, translating our community's vision into practical action. Developed in partnership with our community, the Plan sets our direction, and this year's Budget reflects that focus.

It supports the places we live, the connections we value, and the services we rely on every day while continuing to strengthen the financial foundations needed to sustain them into the future. Through a balanced and considered approach, we aim to ensure affordability while maintaining the capacity to invest in our community's long-term wellbeing.

Importantly, this Budget is part of a broader approach to strategic planning and decision-making. By aligning our resources with clearly defined priorities, we strengthen transparency, accountability, and our ability to respond to changing needs and emerging opportunities.

We do this work in recognition of the unique character of our towns and hamlets and the shared values that bring us together. The unwavering dedication of our volunteers, community groups and local organisations is at the core of our community spirit, defining who we are and what makes us so proud to call the Shire home.

As we move forward, we remain focused on delivering for our community with clarity, purpose and care. On behalf of Council, thank you for your ongoing support and contributions as we work together to make the magic happen, and continue toward a strong and sustainable future for our Shire.

In this brochure you will find a snapshot of key projects, community services, and other priorities we'll be delivering in the upcoming financial year, along with important information about your rates.

BE INFORMED

Stay connected in a way that works for you

www.donnybrook-balingup.wa.gov.au

Our website is your source of truth – head here for information about our services, facilities, Council meetings, documents, events and more!

You can also find updates from the Shire here:

- Follow us on Facebook:
  @shireofdonnybrookbalingup
  @donnybrookrecreationcentre
  @donnybrookcommunitylibrary
- Shire Connect, published in the Preston Press (available in print & online via Donnybrook CRC)
- Subscribe to the Shire E-Connect to receive updates directly via email (sign up via our website)
- Letters in the mail for projects near you
- Flyers & posters on local noticeboards

GET IN TOUCH

Contact the Shire Administration Office

Visit: 1 Bentley Street, Donnybrook, WA 6239

Call: (08) 9780 4200

Open: Monday – Friday, 8:30am – 4:00pm

Email: shire@donnybrook.wa.gov.au

Post: PO Box 94, Donnybrook, WA 6239

how we're making the magic happen this year

Shire of Donnybrook Balingup

2026-2027 Budget & Rates Information

the Annual Budget & what your rates go towards

Your rates form part of the Shire's Annual Budget. Together with grants secured through advocacy and other income sources, the budget funds the essential services and facilities that support our community every day across the district, including:

- Community facilities such as our libraries and the Donnybrook Recreation Centre
- Supporting community programs, projects and events
- Maintaining local roads, paths, parks, reserves, cemeteries, and public spaces
- Caring for both our natural and built environment

It also enables investment in local infrastructure and supports progress towards our shared vision and the priorities set out in the Council Plan, which reflects the needs and aspirations of our community. Here are just some of the ways we're helping the community thrive and embracing the magic in 2026-2027:

Recreational Facilities	$2.28m	*Funding allocated towards providing day-to-day services at our Libraries in Donnybrook and Balingup, and the Donnybrook Recreation Centre*
Capital Asset Expenditure	$2.89m	*Funding allocated to specific assets and related projects such as the new fire station for the Argyle Irishtown Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade*
Parks & Open Spaces	$2.13m	*Funding for taking care of our shared open spaces and outdoor areas such as local ovals, parks, playgrounds and nature reserves*
Capital Works & Infrastructure	$6.27m	*Funding allocated to key projects such as large-scale transport infrastructure upgrades (primarily sourced through external grants)*
Local Roads & Bridges	$1.88m	*Funding for the upkeep of our transport infrastructure – this includes 300km+ of sealed roads, 357km+ of unsealed roads, and 32 bridges*
Waste Services & Management	$1.33m	*Funding allocated to waste services and facilities, including kerbside collections across our townsites and providing bins at local events*
Public Safety & Wellbeing	$1.52m	*Allocated to emergency management and public safety, including mitigation activities, our bush fire brigades, and animal control*

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. Properties in our Shire are valued using GRV or UV.

Gross Rental Value (GRV)

- *Applies to non-rural land, revalued every 6 years (latest: 2024)*
- *This is the total annual rent a property could earn each year, if it were to be rented out*
- *Vacant land calculations use a statutory rate of UV – 3% for residential properties, and 5% for non-residential*

Unimproved Value (UV)

- *Applies predominantly to rural land, revalued every year*
- *Reflects the value of the land only – excludes buildings, structures or improvements*

what is on your rates notice

- **Emergency Services Levy (ESL)** funds emergency services and is set by the Department of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES).
- **Rubbish bin fees** are listed separately for providing the service.
- **Pools & spas** over 30cm deep are inspected every 4 years. This fee is split across 4 annual rate payments.

how rates are calculated

Your rates are calculated by multiplying your property's GRV or UV by the rate in the dollar set by Council. A 6.7% increase in total rate revenue in the 2026-2027 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 2025-2026 equals approximately $84,790.

GRV or UV **Valuation ($)**	x	Rate in the **Dollar ($)**	x	Total Rates **Payable ($)**
Here is an example of calculating with GRV:				
$20,000	x	$0.106037	x	$2,120.74
Here is an example of calculating with UV:				
$350,000	x	$0.004638	x	$1,623.30

Minimum rate for 2026-2027: $1,921