

2024/2025 Budget Overview



SHIRE PRESIDENT MESSAGE

The preparation of the 2024/2025 budget is based on Council's direction for the financial year. This direction incorporates the focus on maintaining existing services and facilities at levels customers expect. In addition to this, the budget also reflects strategies and projects contained in the Corporate Business Plan. Councillors and staff are continually assessing the role of local government in the community and are always seeking the views and opinions of residents and ratepayers on major capital works to be undertaken. It is the Council's decision to refine and adopt a budget, while trying to accommodate all reasonable requests within appropriate funding limits and rate increases.

Our average rate rise this year is 4.0% keeping pace with CPI. It is very important that Council continues to at least meet inflation costs otherwise our projects and programs will deliver less than previous or be stopped completely. However, given that Gross Rental Value (GRV) properties have been revalued for 2024/25, this is likely to influence rates applied to individual properties which may result in amounts less than, or more than, the average rate rise set by Council. Under legislation, the revaluation process is undertaken every three to six years by the Valuer General on GRV properties and every year on Unimproved Value (UV) properties. The process is designed to capture the comparative value change in properties to ensure a fair share of the rate burden is imposed across the Shire.

After more than 3.5 years of navigating through disaster recovery processes with the State and Federal Governments, the coastal infrastructure repair work in Kalbarri arising from TC Seroja is commencing and will be completed by 31 December 2024. The total of these works is a combined \$6.9M and will be carried out by contractors under Shire supervision. We ask for everyone to be patient whilst these works are ongoing as there will be disruption.

Excitingly the State Government has recognised the tourism importance of Kalbarri and is providing \$8.1M for phase one of the Kalbarri Foreshore Revitalisation Project. Shire staff will be leading this project with Council and relevant stakeholders to deliver infrastructure improvement that will benefit both livability, and tourism in Kalbarri.

Finally, a quick mention of our brand new competitive Community Grants Program where the Shire will deliver \$100,000 back to community groups and projects. Keep watch for the two rounds in 2024/25 and make sure you get your applications in by the deadlines.

Liz Sudlow – Shire President

2024/2025 BUDGET INFORMATION

Major Projects

- **Northampton**
 - Community Centre improvement works.
 - Stephen Street Depot improvements.
 - implementation of a drainage easements.
 - new Shire Housing located in Stephen Street.
- **Kalbarri**
 - implementation of Foreshore Management Plan.
 - oval improvements works.
 - new Shire Housing located in Wood Street.
- **Horrocks**
 - Matt Burrell Pavilion and foreshore access.
- **Port Gregory**
 - redevelop foreshore / carpark area.

Major Roadworks

- Northampton road improvements include Gwalla Street, Robinson Street and Fifth Avenue.
- Kalbarri road improvements include Karina Mews, Anchorage Lane, Maver Street and Glass Street.
- Binnu East Road reconstruct flood ways and reseals.
- Balla-Whelarra Road reseals.
- Horrocks Little Bay Road construction.
- Kalbarri-Ajana Road (Black Spot Funding).

Footpath Projects

- **Kalbarri**
 - Grey Street and Echo Flora to Red Bluff Road.
- **Northampton**
 - Stephen Street and Hampton Road

Plant Replacement Program

- Funds totalling \$817,000 have been allocated towards plant replacement.

RATING INFORMATION

Council has increased rate charges by 4% for Gross Rental Valued (GRV) properties (Town Sites) and Unimproved Valued (UV) properties (Rural) for 2024/2025.

Rate Category	Rate in \$	Minimum Rate
Gross Rental Value	7.5526	\$640
Unimproved Value	0.6980	\$640

The date of issue for 2024/2025 Rates Account is the 19th August 2024.

HOW DO I PAY MY RATES

Rates will become due and payable 35 days from the date of issue being 6th October 2024. Rates outstanding after this date will incur a daily penalty percentage rate based on an annual rate of 7%.

INSTALMENT OPTIONS

Four Instalments – includes an administration fee of \$15 plus interest at an annual rate of 5%.







1st Instalment	4th October 2024
2nd Instalment	6th December 2024
3rd Instalment	7th February 2025
4th Instalment	11th April 2025

Two Instalments – includes an administration fee of \$5 plus interest at an annual rate of 5%.

1st Instalment	4th October 2024
2nd Instalment	6th December 2024

Should a ratepayer not meet one of the instalment payments, penalty interest will immediately start to accrue, at the above daily rate, from the date after the instalment due date until the instalment payment is made.

Council offers the below payment facility.

METHODS OF PAYMENT					
DIRECT DEPOSIT NORTHAMPTON NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK BSB: 086-886 ACC: 508 363 005 SHIRE OF NORTHAMPTON ACCOUNT QUOTE ASSESSMENT NUMBER AS REFERENCE	 PAY ANYTIME Telephone 1300 276 468 Or visit www.northampton.wa.gov.au  TELEPHONE PAYMENTS To pay by credit card (Mastercard and Visa) telephone 1300 276 468. Please have your credit card details ready.	 TELEPHONE & INTERNET BANKING - BPAY* Contact your bank or financial institution to make this payment from your cheque, savings, debit, credit card or transaction account. More info: www.bpay.com.au	 INTERNET Using Councils secure Online Payments options, click the "Payments" button on Councils web site www.northampton.wa.gov.au	 BY MAIL Detach payment slip and mail with cheque to: Shire of Northampton PO Box 61 Northampton WA 6535	 IN PERSON You may pay by EFTPOS, cash, Money Order, Credit Card or Cheque crossed "Not Negotiable". Payments are accepted at: Northampton Office Hampton Road Northampton WA 6535 or Kalbarri Office Grey Street Kalbarri WA 6536

CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP DETAILS

** Please ensure Council is notified of any change of postal address or ownership details in writing and if other information on the rate notice is incorrect, please contact Council immediately.

PROPERTY VALUATIONS

The Valuer General's office provides Council with property values upon which Council rates are based. Each year Unimproved Values (UV's) are revalued with Gross Rental Values (GRV's) revalued every three to six years.

In 2024/2025 the GRV AND UV properties were re-valued with adjustments made according to market demand.

Should you wish to object to the valuation of your property, objections must be lodged with the Valuer General within 60 days of the issue of the Notice of Valuation and Rates via any of the following options.

Valuer General,
PO Box 2222
Midland 5936

vs@landgate.wa.gov.au
Phone: 08 9273 7373

It is important to note that Section 6.81 of the Local Government Act 1995 provides that rates must be paid but are subject to adjustment if your objection is successful.

SPECIFIED AREA RATES

Kalbarri Tourism Specified Area Rate

Council over previous years and again in 2024/2025 has raised a specified area rate over all rateable Kalbarri Gross Rental Value properties zoned Residential, Residential Development, Places of Public Assembly, Special Site, Special Rural, Commercial, Tourist Accommodation, Service Industry, Light Industry, Composite Light Industry, within the Kalbarri Town Planning Scheme No. 9 being for Tourism Infrastructure related projects and Tourism Promotional Advertising within the Kalbarri Ward.

This year the request to Council was consider an allocation of \$30,000 from the 2024/2025. Kalbarri Tourism Specified Area Rate to continue marketing the Tourism Promotional Advertising.

Port Gregory Specified Area Rate – Water Supply

Council over previous years and again in 2024/2025 has raised a specified area rate over all rateable Port Gregory Gross Rental Value properties to contribute to the cost of operating and maintaining the non-potable water supply to the Townsite. Council will be raising \$29,000 from this rate during 2024/2025.

Further information on the above Specified Area Rates can be obtained by contacting the Administration Office in Northampton.

PENSIONER/SENIOR CARD CONCESSIONS

Pensioners and Seniors, who are entitled to receive a rebate on their rates account, need to make application with the Shire, and should reconfirm their details with the Rates Officer at the commencement of each financial year.

Refuse and services charges are not given pensioner rate concessions.

Subject to certain conditions, you may qualify for a rates concession, if you own and reside at the property before 1st July 2024.

WA Seniors Card Holders

Ratepayers holding a WA Seniors Card may receive a 25% Government rebate capped at \$100.

Commonwealth Concession Cards

Ratepayers holding an applicable Pension Card may receive a 50% Government rebate capped at \$750.

Council is now offering Centrepay to eligible pensioners. Centrepay is a free direct bill-paying service offered to customers receiving payments from Centrelink. Through Centrepay you can choose to pay bills by having a regular amount deducted from your Centrelink payment making bills more manageable. Centrepay is voluntary.

If any of the above situations relate to you, please contact the Council office to clarify your entitlement.

The Council does not administer laws regarding Pension Concessions. If you wish to lodge a complaint regarding the rebate, you will need to contact your local Member of Parliament.

RATES PAYMENTS AND RECOVERY

Rates and services are payable within 35 days of the date of issue of the original rate notice (refer to the due date on the rate notice). Any rates outstanding after this date may be recovered by Legal Action. COSTS OF LEGAL ACTION WILL BE ADDED TO YOUR ACCOUNT.

Should there be any reason why payment cannot be made in full please contact Council's Rate Officer immediately.

If payment is allowed to fall into arrears for a period of three years or more the Council may:

1. Take the land and let it on lease;
2. Sell the land;
3. Have the land vested in the Local Government; or
4. Have the land re-vested in the Crown.