



# **AGENDA**

**Special Council Meeting**

**27 June 2024**

**4:30pm**

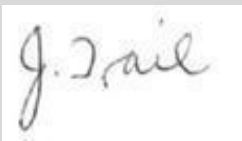
**Council Chambers, Bayley Street, Coolgardie**

**SHIRE OF COOLGARDIE**

**NOTICE OF**

Dear Elected Member

The next Special Council Meeting of the Shire of Coolgardie will be held on Thursday 27 June 2024 commencing at 4:30pm.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Trail".


**JAMES TRAIL  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING****27 June 2024**

Welcome to the Special Council Meeting of the Shire of Coolgardie.

The dates, times and locations of the Ordinary Council Meetings for 2024 are listed hereunder.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Venue</u>
Tuesday	23 January 2024	4:30pm	Kambalda
Tuesday	27 February 2024	4.30pm	Coolgardie
Tuesday	26 March 2024	4.30pm	Kambalda
Tuesday	23 April 2024	4.30pm	Coolgardie
Tuesday	28 May 2024	4.30pm	Kambalda
Tuesday	25 June 2024	4.30pm	Coolgardie
Tuesday	23 July 2024	4.30pm	Kambalda
Tuesday	27 August 2024	4.30pm	Coolgardie
Tuesday	24 September 2024	4.30pm	Kambalda
Tuesday	22 October 2024	4.30pm	Coolgardie
Tuesday	26 November 2024	4.30pm	Kambalda
Tuesday	17 December 2024	4.30pm	Coolgardie



James Trail  
Chief Executive Officer

**DISCLAIMER**

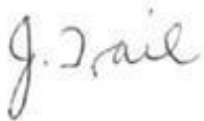
INFORMATION FOR PUBLIC ATTENDING COUNCIL MEETINGS

**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 COUNCILS DECISION.**



James Trail  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

## COUNCIL MEETING INFORMATION NOTES

1. Your Council generally handles all business at Ordinary or Special Council Meetings.
2. From time to time Council may form a Committee to examine subjects and then report to Council.
3. 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. 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.
4. 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 Chairman.

***Written notice of each question should be given to the Chief Executive Officer prior to 10:30am on the day of the meeting. A summary of each question and response is included in the 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 meeting of Council.***

5. **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 Chairman of the meeting will advise the Officer if he/she is to leave the meeting.

6. 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 staff. An Agenda item including a recommendation will then be submitted to Council for consideration.**

**The Agenda closes the Monday 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.

7. Agendas for Ordinary Meetings are available in the Coolgardie and Kambalda Offices/Libraries seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting and the public are invited to secure a copy.
8. 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 3).
9. Public Question Time – Statutory Provisions – Local Government Act 1995

Time is to be allocated for questions to be raised by members of the public and responded to at:

- (a) Every ordinary meeting of a council; and
- (b) Such other meetings of councils or committees as may be prescribed

Procedures and the minimum time to be allocated for the asking of and responding to questions raised by members of the public at council or committee meetings are to be in accordance with regulations.

9A. Question Time for the Public at Certain Meetings – s5.24 (1) (b)

**Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996**

Reg 5 For the purpose of section 5.24(1)(b), the meetings at which time is to be allocated for questions to be raised by members of the public and responded to are:

- (a) every special meeting of a council; and
- (b) every meeting of a committee to which the local government has delegated a power or duty.

Minimum Question Time for the Public – s5.24 (2)

- Reg 6 (1) The minimum time to be allocated for the asking of and responding to questions raised by members of the public at ordinary meetings of councils and meetings referred to in regulation 5 is fifteen (15) minutes.
- (2) Once all the questions raised by members of the public have been asked and responded to at a meeting referred to in sub regulation (1), nothing in these regulations prevents the unused part of the minimum question time period from being used for other matters.

Procedures for Question Time for the Public – s5.24 (2)

**Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996**

- Reg 7 (1) Procedures for the asking of and responding to questions raised by members of the public at a meeting referred to in regulation 6 (1) are to be determined:
- (a) by the person presiding at the meeting; or
  - (b) in the case where the majority of members of the council or committee present at the meeting disagree with the person presiding, by the majority of members, having regard to the requirements of sub regulations (2) and (3).
- (2) The time allocated to the asking and responding to questions raised by members of the public at a meeting referred to in regulation 6(1) is to precede the discussion of any matter that requires a decision to be made by the council or the committee, as the case may be.
- (3) Each member of the public who wishes to ask a question at a meeting referred to in regulation 6(1) is to be given an equal and fair opportunity to ask the question and receive a response.
- (4) Nothing in sub regulation (3) requires:
- (a) A council to answer a question that does not relate to a matter affecting the local government;
  - (b) A council at a special meeting to answer a question that does not relate to the purpose of the meeting; or
  - (c) A committee to answer a question that does not relate to a function of the committee.

**2. Public Inspection of Unconfirmed Minutes (Reg 13)**

A copy of the unconfirmed Minutes of Ordinary and Special Meetings will be available for public inspection in the Coolgardie and Kambalda Offices/Libraries within ten (10) working days after the Meeting.

**NOTE:****10.3 Unopposed Business**

- (1) Upon a motion being moved and seconded, the person presiding may ask the meeting if any member opposes it.
- (2) If no member signifies opposition to the motion the person presiding may declare the motion in sub clause (1) carried without debate and without taking a vote on it,
- (3) A motion carried under sub clause (2) is to be recorded in the minutes as a unanimous decision of the Council or committee.
- (4) If a member signifies opposition to a motion the motion is to be dealt with according to this Part.
- (5) This clause does not apply to any motion or decision to revoke or change a decision which has been made at a Council or committee meeting.



## DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

### Notes for Guidance

#### IMPACT OF A FINANCIAL INTEREST (s. 5.65 & s.67. Local Government Act 1995)

A member who has a **Financial Interest** in any matter to be discussed at a Council or Committee Meeting, which will be attended by the member, must disclose the nature of the interest:

- a. In a written notice given to the Chief Executive Officer before the Meeting or;
- b. At the meeting immediately before the matter is discussed.

A member, who makes a disclosure in respect to an interest, must not:

- a. Preside at the part of the Meeting relating to the matter or;
- b. Participate in, or be present during, any discussion or decision making procedure relative to the matter, unless and to the extent that, the disclosing member is allowed to do so under *Section 5.68 or Section 5.69 of the Local Government Act 1995*.

#### **INTERESTS AFFECTING FINANCIAL INTEREST**

The following notes are a basic guide for Councillors when they are considering whether they have a **Financial Interest in a matter**.

1. A Financial Interest, pursuant to s.5.60A or 5.61 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, requiring disclosure occurs when a Council decision might advantageously or detrimentally affect the Councillor or a person closely associated with the Councillor and is capable of being measured in money terms. There are expectations in the *Local Government Act 1995* but they should not be relied on without advice, unless the situation is very clear.
2. If a Councillor is a member of an Association (which is a Body Corporate) with not less than 10 members i.e sporting, social, religious etc, and the Councillor is not a holder of office of profit or a guarantor, and has not leased land to or from the club, i.e, if the Councillor is an ordinary member of the Association, the Councillor has a common and not a financial interest in any matter to that Association.
3. If an interest is shared in common with a significant number of electors and ratepayers, then the obligation to disclose that interest does not arise. Each case needs to be considered.
4. If in doubt declare.
5. As stated if written notice disclosing the interest has not been given to the Chief Executive Officer before the meeting, then it **must** be given when the matter arises in the Agenda, and immediately before the matter is discussed. *Under s.5.65 of the Local Government Act 1995* failure to notify carries a penalty of \$10,000 or imprisonment for 2 years.
6. Ordinarily the disclosing Councillor must leave the meeting room before discussion commences. The only exceptions are:
  - 6.1 Where the Councillor discloses the **extent** of the interest, and Council carries a motion under s.5.68(1)(b)(ii) of the *Local Government Act 1995*; or
  - 6.2 Where the Minister allows the Councillor to participate under s.5.69(3) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, with or without conditions.

**INTERESTS AFFECTING PROXIMITY** (s.5.60b Local Government Act 1995)

1. For the purpose of this subdivision, a person has a proximity interest, pursuant to s.5.60B of the Local Government Act 1995, in a matter if the matter concerns;
  - a. a proposed change to a planning scheme affecting land that adjoins the person's land; or
  - b. a proposed change to the zoning or use of land that adjoins the person's land; or
  - c. a proposed development (as defined in Section 5.63(5)) of land that adjoins the person's land.
  
2. In this section, land (the proposal land) adjoins a person's land if;
  - a. The proposal land, not being a throughfare, has a common boundary with the person's land; or
  - b. The proposal land, or any part of it, is directly across a throughfare from, the person's land; or
  - c. The proposal land is that part of a thoroughfare that has a common boundary with the person's land.
  
3. In this section a reference to a person's land is a reference to any land owned by the person or in which the person has any estate or interest.

**INTERESTS AFFECTING IMPARTIALITY**

Definition: an interest, pursuant to *Regulation 19AA of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*, means an interest that could, or could reasonably be perceived to adversely affect the impartiality of the person having the interest; and includes an interest arising from kinship, friendship or membership of an association. It is also important to be considered in relation to the Shire of Coolgardie Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members, and Candidates.

A member who has an **Interest Affecting Impartiality** in any matter to be discussed at a Council or Committee Meeting, which will be attended by the member, must disclose the nature of the interest;

- a. In a written notice given to the Chief Executive Officer before the Meeting or;
- b. At the Meeting, immediately before the matter is discussed.

**IMPACT OF AN IMPARTIALITY DISCLOSURE**

There are very different outcomes resulting from disclosing an interest affecting impartiality compared to that of a financial interest. With the declaration of a financial interest, an elected member leaves the room and does not vote.

With the declaration of this type of interest, the elected member stays in the room, participates in the debate and votes. In effect then, following disclosure of an interest affecting impartiality, the member's involvement in the Meeting continues as if no interest existed.

**QUESTION TIME FOR THE PUBLIC**

*(Please Write Clearly)*

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION TO THE PRESIDENT:-**

- **GENERAL QUESTION / QUESTION RELATED TO THE AGENDA**  
*(Strike out unnecessary words)*

ITEM NO: \_\_\_\_\_ PAGE NO: \_\_\_\_\_

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**PLEASE PASS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR REFERRAL TO THE PRESIDENT BY 12.30PM ON THE DAY OF THE MEETING AT THE KAMBALDA OFFICE, IRISH MULGA DRIVE, KAMBALDA OR AT THE COOLGARDIE OFFICE, BAYLEY STREET, COOLGARDIE.**

**Order Of Business**

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**1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS****1.1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

“The Shire of Coolgardie acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land, on which we meet and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging”

**2 DECLARATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

The Shire President to invite Council Members to declare that they have read the agenda and supporting documents and able to make informed decision on all matters accordingly.

**3 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE****4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST****4.1 Declarations of Financial Interests – Local Government Act Section 5.60A****4.2 Declarations of Proximity Interests – Local Government Act Section 5.60B****4.3 Declarations of Impartiality Interests –Shire of Coolgardie Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates for Election, Code of Conduct for Employees****5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME****6 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE****7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS****8 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Nil

**9 REPORTS OF OFFICERS****9.1 Executive Services****9.1.1 2024/25 DIFFERENTIAL RATES**

**Location:** Shire of Coolgardie  
**Applicant:** Shire of Coolgardie  
**Disclosure of Interest:** Nil  
**Date:** 25 June 2024  
**Author:** James Trail, Chief Executive Officer

**SUMMARY**

This report recommends that the Council consider submissions received for differential rating and submit an application to the Minister with respect to the proposed differential rating.

**BACKGROUND**

Part of the rating review includes whether a local government intends to impose differential rating in either Unimproved or Gross Rental Value classes. If differential rating is proposed by a local government a Statement of Objectives and Reasons outlining the reasons for differential rating is prepared and advertised for public comment.

Council gave local public notice under section 6.36 of the Local Government Act 1995 of the intention to apply a differential rate on 17 May 2024. One submissions was received and is attached

**COMMENT**

Council gave local public notice under section 6.36 of the Local Government Act 1995 of the intention to apply a differential rate on 27 May 2023. 2 submissions were received and are attached.

Council has considered the Key Values contained within the Rating Policy Differential Rates (s.6.33) March 2016 released by the Department of Local Government and Communities, being:

- Objectivity
- Fairness and Equity
- Consistency
- Transparency and administrative efficiency

In summary

- Council approved the advertising of the proposed 2024/25 differential rating categories, rates in the dollar and minimum payments for the year ending 30 June 2024 at a Special Meeting In May 2024
- Differential rates were advertised for a minimum period of 21 days.
- Advertisements were placed in the West Australian, Kalgoorlie Miner and shire offices in Kambalda and Coolgardie
- One submission objecting to the proposed differential rates were received by the closing date
- The Shire requires Ministerial approval to levy a rate in the differential rating category Transient Workforce Accommodation since the proposed rate in the dollar is more than twice the lowest

differential general rate imposed as specified in Section 6.33() of the *Local Government Act 1995* (LG Act).

- The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) Rating Policy Minimum Payments (s6.35) March 2016 requires Council to consider submissions received prior to Ministerial approval being sought.
- Council has determined its required rates yield after reviewing all revenue sources, expenditure, and efficiency measures as part of its budget deliberations.

The Rate in the Dollar applied to the valuations to determine property rates reflects on average a 1.9% increase for 2024/25. This is estimated to raise a total of \$10.88 million in rates.

The estimated rate yield of \$11.92 million provides for Capital Works, and Programs which includes:

- Road Renewal Programme
- Provision of recreational facilities
- Road, parks, verges, footpath, and drainage maintenance
- Renewal of Plant and Equipment

Council has reviewed its expenditure and considered efficiency measures as part of its budget deliberations. The implementation of the service level review has allowed this to occur for the fifth year in a row.

In regard to 2024/25, the following actions have been undertaken:

#### Efficiency Measures:

- Review of Shire land and reserves to release to the market for affordable housing;
- Disposal of under-utilised light fleet and plant;
- Continued use of local suppliers whenever possible and appropriate;
- Diversification of Shire revenue base

#### Service Improvements:

- Collection of Class III waste at Coolgardie Tip Site
- Commence operations in the newly refurbished Coolgardie Community Hub
- Expansion of local road and footpath network and associated infrastructure
- Availability of land for workforce and residential housing
- Increase in frequency and areas of road maintenance
- Review of service levels for waste services
- Review of service levels for provision of customer service

#### **Key points for the 2024/25 Rating Strategy:**

- Raise sufficient yield to try and maintain current services and future infrastructure renewal to meet community expectations and stimulate the Shire of Coolgardie economy whilst trying to ensure a balanced budget;
- Review of the number and type of rating differential categories and move towards uniform rating across all differentials;

- Identify the rates burden more objectively
- Uniform rating will improve transparency, administrative efficiency;
- Critical analysis of the yield generated by each differential category as a percentage of the total yield, comparing to the contribution by each category, the valuation % of each category, and the services consumed;
- Provide a level of certainty and consistency for ratepayers with a stable long term rates model;
- Properties are rated according to Town Planning zonings and predominant land use with each having a separate calculated rate in the dollar and established minimums to achieve greater equity across all sectors and ensure a base level contribution.

## CONSULTATION

The proposed differential rating categories, rates in the dollar and minimum payments were advertised in the West Australian and the Kalgoorlie Miner on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

In addition to the State circulated newspapers copies of proposed differential rating were also published at the Kambalda Shire Administration Office, Kambalda Recreation Centre and the Coolgardie Shire Administration.

Ratepayers and electors were provided with more than the minimum of 21 days to lodge a submission. The deadline for submissions was 4.00pm on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

One submission was received prior to this deadline.

## STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Part VI of the LG Act deals with the levying of differential rates.

- Sections 6.32 and 6.33 state that Council may impose differential rates based on differential categories.
- Section 6.35 states that Council may impose a minimum payment for each category.
- Section 6.36 requires the local government to give the appropriate notice of its intention to impose differential rates and minimum payments in respect to each differential rate category.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The level of rate increase proposed is required to assist the Shire in meeting the need to maintain and renew its current infrastructure assets.

## STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

### Accountable and effective leaders

Demonstrating sound financial management and plans for the Shire's long term financial sustainability

Demonstrating that decisions are developed through inclusive community engagement

Ensuring a well-informed Council makes good decisions for the community



**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Jan McLeod - Submission

**VOTING REQUIREMENT**

Simple majority

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Notes the submission received objecting to the differential rates and minimum payments proposed for 2024/25; and
2. Advises the submitter that no change is proposed to be made to the differential rates; and
3. Approves an application be made to the Minister for Local Government to seek approval to levy a rate in the differential rating category Transient Workforce Accommodation since the proposed rate in the dollar is more than twice the lowest differential general rate imposed as specified in Section 6.33() of the *Local Government Act 1995* (LG Act).

**9.1.2 2024/25 ANNUAL BUDGET**

**Location:** Shire of Coolgardie  
**Applicant:** Shire of Coolgardie  
**Disclosure of Interest:** Nil  
**Date:** 25 June 2024  
**Author:** James Trail, Chief Executive Officer

**SUMMARY**

This report recommends that the 2024/25 Draft Budget and associated budget schedules for the year ending 30 June 2025 be presented to Council for adoption.

**BACKGROUND**

A series of budget workshops involving the Council, the Chief Executive Officer, Senior staff, and contractors has been conducted. These workshops concluded with a review of a line-by-line document detailing both the capital projects and operating expenditure items included in this budget.

**COMMENT**

The Shire of Coolgardie located in the Western Australian Goldfields was the location of the first gold rush in 1892 and since then has experienced the highs and lows of the mining lifecycle with often deleterious impacts. The Shire is taking steps to future-proof itself against the impacts of the mining lifecycle, shoring up its viability through a self-directed future.

It has taken advantage of economic opportunities to build a corpus of funds to ride out the inevitable boom and bust sequences of mining and fluctuations of government funding regimes. The suite of strategies includes initiatives that diversify away from mining using redundant mine assets. The initiatives are encouraging development of sustainable post-mine options.

Local government is a relatively weak tier of government, unrecognised in the Australian Constitution. The host state allocates funds to the local government sector at their discretion with limited other opportunities for revenue raising beyond municipal rates, fees and charges.

Local government is therefore used by the other tiers of government as a convenient agency for local service delivery with structural constraints on revenue raising.

Constituents expect the same level of service from their local government regardless of their location. Small, remote local government authorities such as the Shire of Coolgardie are especially constrained by small populations, spread across two towns with expensive infrastructure to maintain in both locations.

The vagaries of the mine lifecycle apply considerable pressure on local government, whether it is the growth phase during a boom or managing dwindling populations and reduced incomes during a downturn. Seeking own-source revenue to provide some autonomy is therefore a desired outcome.

Despite multiple boom and bust phases in mining over the last 130 years, mining continues to underpin the local economy. The Shire of Coolgardie developed a suite of strategic projects that addressed the issues of mining industry dependency while also diversifying future revenue streams by leveraging investments in municipal infrastructure and generating revenue from these economic activities.

Revenue was then applied to improving municipal services, the sustainability of infrastructure in the Shire and the provision of other services to the community.

The development of own-source revenue streams generated through supplying services and infrastructure to both mining and non-mining sectors is an opportunity that has been embraced by the Shire: -

- Construction by the Shire of 320 bed accommodation village.
- Waste management facility (class III).
- Liquid Waste Facility
- Kambalda Airport

The success of these initiatives is contingent upon strong and consistent leadership and the local confidence invested in the Shire to pursue the entrepreneurial activities.

### **Budget**

The Council's 2024/2025 budget deliberations has resulted in;

- Operating Surplus \$5,834,474
- Net Cash provided by operating activities \$8,854,736
- Debt Repayment \$8.3 million

Rate notices may identify up to four different line-item charges. These are:

- Rates
- Kerbside Rubbish
- Emergency Service Levy
- Sewerage Rates (for the Coolgardie Townsite)

### **Rates**

The estimated rate yield of \$11.93 million provides for Capital Works, and Programs which includes:

- Road Renewal Programme
- Provision or recreational facilities
- Road, parks, verges, footpath, and drainage maintenance

### **Emergency Service Levy**

The Emergency Services Levy is set by the State and collection by Local Government. This year the levy is \$103 for most properties. The levy is applied to all properties and mining leases.

The Shire receives an annual grant for bush fire and emergency services of \$9,650.

However, it must be noted that the levy funds are for both the Kambalda and Coolgardie Fire and Rescue Services and the State Emergency Service in Kalgoorlie which also serves our towns.

St John Ambulance Service is not funded by this levy.

## Wastewater Scheme - Coolgardie

The source of power to raise a general rate for the wastewater scheme in Coolgardie is:

### **Under section 41 of the Health (MP) Act, a local government has the power to impose an annual 'sanitary rate' –**

*'For the purpose of providing for the proper performance of all or any of the services mentioned in section 112 [which includes 'the collection and disposal of sewage'], and the maintenance of any sewerage works constructed by the local government under Part IV'.*

That annual rate cannot exceed 12 cents in the dollar on the gross rental value (or 3 cents in the dollar on any improved value of the land).

Recent changes to regulations have dramatically increased the cost of compliance for this service. Over the past three years, rates for this service have increased to ensure that this service continues to be managed to an appropriate standard. There continues to be a gap between revenue raised via the sanitary rate and costs to provide the service.

The estimated revenue for the 2024/25 financial year is \$350,000 from the sanitary charges and \$12,500 from the pedestal charges. The estimated expenditure for 2024/25 is \$560,000.

It is estimated that the reuse of water from the sewerage plant saves more than \$40,000 annually on water charges from Water Corp. The treated water from this service is used to reticulate many of the green spaces in the Coolgardie town site. It is anticipated that the Shire will be able to sell recycled water and use the water on roads and parks.

## **Pedestal Charge**

Having received advice, the primary source of power for the Shire to impose any proposed 'pedestal fee' is section 106 of the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911 (Health (MP) Act). Section 106(1) states – *'The local government may, in lieu of, or in addition to a sanitary rate, provide for the proper disposal of sewage, whether within the district or not, by making an annual charge per pan or other receptacle, payable in one sum or by equal monthly or other instalments in advance, in respect of every house or place provided with the service'.*

Among the qualifications and other provisions of section 106(2)-(8) are –

- (1) the charge must be levied on either the owner or occupier 'of every house in which such pan or other receptacle is in use'.
- (2) notice of the charge may be included in the rates notice.
- (3) the charge may be limited to premises in a particular portion of the Shire's district.
- (4) the charge may be levied in respect of premises that are not rateable (as well as in respect of premises that are rateable); and
- (5) with the approval of the Chief Health Officer, the Shire may 'make different charges for services rendered in different portions of its district'.

It follows that, subject to these provisions, the Shire has the power to impose an annual charge of the type that has been proposed – although it should be referred to as a pedestal (or pan) charge (rather than a 'fee') imposed under section 106 of the Health (MP) Act

A pedestal charge of \$235 per pedestal will be imposed in 2024/25. There is no change to the method of rating for this service.

The total budgeted revenue to be raised this year is estimated to be \$12,500.

**Rubbish Service**

The charge for weekly verge pickup for 2024/25 will be \$362 (GST Exclusive).

Tip fees and charges are budgeted to bring in \$2,474,470.

The budgeted cost of the service, which includes the contract for the kerbside pickup and the operation of the tips at Kambalda and Coolgardie, is \$1,945,860.

Disposal of waste for residents is free at both tip sites.

**Fees and Charges**

Fees and Charges for all services have been reviewed during the budget deliberation process.

The proposed Fees and Charges for the 2024/25 financial year are tabled for adoption with the Annual Budget.

**Summary**

The 2024/25 budget concentrates on core services, efficiencies, an extensive array of community initiatives and renewal and maintenance of the Shires vast infrastructure.

The Shire intends in consultation with the mining industry, to rate capital improvements consisting of accommodation, administration facilities, associated buildings, and maintenance workshops during the 2023/24 year.

The 2024/2025 Annual Draft Budget highlights operating revenue of \$34,428,453 compared to \$30,166,301 in 2023/2024 and operating expenditure of \$32,736,088 compared to \$233,090,900. Consequently, for the 2024/2025 year the budget operating surplus is \$5,834,474. This extraordinary turn around is a direct result of the progression of new revenue generating opportunities. Furthermore, for the first time, the Shire will end up with an estimated positive operating surplus.

The 2024/2025 Annual Draft Budget also highlights an estimated \$11,134,736 net cash provided by operating activities. This is an extraordinary turn around in such a short period of time. Very few local governments in WA would have estimated net cash provided by operating activities greater than their rates revenue.

The Shire has budgeted to undertake a conservative capital expenditure programme estimated at \$5.9m. This includes;

- Coolgardie North Road - \$3.2 million
- Footpaths - \$300,000
- Sewerage Upgrades - \$750,000

The Shire Road network will benefit this year with over \$5.1 million (subject to some funding) to be spent on road renewal and in excess of \$2.1m on road maintenance.

In addition to Rate revenue, the Shire will again receive both operating grants and contributions from other sources. This is estimated to be \$3.3 million.

Total Non- Operating Grants this year are estimated to be \$4.1 million for the 2024/25 financial year.

Much of this funding relates to major infrastructure projects which will only proceed on the basis of funding and/or contributions being received.

Total Fees and Charges this year are estimated to be \$18.4m for the 2024/25 financial year.

The balance of the Shires income is made up of interest, and other general revenue.

It is estimated the Shire will end the financial year with a small cash surplus.

This position is a direct result of Council's strategic direction in making significant investment in infrastructure that has the capacity to generate revenue.

Council has made a conscious decision in 2024/2025 to pay down debt and focus on road works and sewerage ponds upgrade.

In the short term, while these projects are being constructed and before significant revenue can be generated, such projects do have a significant impact on the cash flow of the organisation. It is not until the projects are completed and revenue in the form of fees and charges is generated that benefits of the investment in this infrastructure is realised.

It is important to look at the Shire's financial position over a period of time.

## **CONSULTATION**

Councillor Workshops  
Executive Management  
Staff

## **STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT**

Local Government Act 1995 Section 6.2

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Income and Expenditure as per the proposed Annual Budget.

## **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

### **Accountable and effective leaders**

Advocating for services that support our community needs

Demonstrating sound financial management and plans for the Shire's long term financial sustainability

Ensuring a well-informed Council makes good decisions for the community

High quality corporate governance, accountability and compliance

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. **2024/25 Fees and Charges**
2. **Draft Budget for the year ended 30 June 2025**

**VOTING REQUIREMENT**

Absolute Majority

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION****Recommendation 1 – Rates**

That Council:

1. IMPOSE, in accordance with s.6.35 of the Local Government Act 1995, the following Gross Rental Value (“GRV”) rate in the dollar and minimum payments for the 2024/25 financial year;

<b>Rate Classification</b>	<b>2024/24 Rate in \$</b>	<b>2024/25 Minimum Payment</b>
GRV – Townsite/Other	0.082950	772.00

2. NOTES, that the valuations supplied by the Valuer General as stated be recorded in the rate book for use in the 2023/24 financial year.

GRV – Townsite/Other \$18,201,414

**Recommendation 2 – Differential Rates**

That Council:

1. IMPOSE, by absolute majority, in accordance with section 6.32(1)(a)(ii), 6.32(1)(b)(ii) and 6.33(3) of the Local Government Act 1995 the following differential rates for the 2024/25 financial year;

<b>Rate Classification</b>	<b>2024/25 Rate in \$</b>	<b>2024/25 Minimum Payment</b>
UV Mining	0.236670	\$476
UV Rural/Pastoral	0.120440	\$746
GRV Transient Workforce Accommodation	0.164230	\$1,539

2. NOTES, that the valuations supplied by the Valuer General as stated be recorded in the rate book for use in the 2023/24 financial year.

UV Mining \$34,129,687

UV Rural/Pastoral \$8,388,018

GRV Transient Workforce \$2,420,000

**Recommendation 3 – Rubbish Removal Charge**

That Council:

1. In accordance with section 67 of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007, Council imposes Receptacle Collection Charges as:

240 litre bin (first service for GRV Townsite/Other) \$362 ex GST

240 litre bin (additional service for GRV Townsite/Other) \$403 inc GST



**Recommendation 4 – Wastewater Scheme (Coolgardie)**

That Council in accordance with the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911 impose an annual sanitary general rate and pedestal charge where applicable as tabled below.

<b>Rate Classification</b>	<b>2024/25 Rate in \$</b>	<b>2024/25 Pedestal Charge</b>
Sewerage (GRV Townsite/Other)	0.06050	\$235
Sewerage (Transient Workforce Accommodation)	0.12750	

**Recommendation 5 – Payment Options**

That Council in accordance with regulation 64(2) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, nominate the following due dates for the payment of rates and charges in the 2024/25 financial year:

Issue Date	10 July 2024
Payment in Full	14 August 2024

**Payment in Four Instalments**

First Instalment	14 August 2024
Second Instalment	18 October 2024
Third Instalment	18 December 2024
Fourth instalment	21 February 2025

**Recommendation 6 – Interest**

That Council Pursuant to Section 6.51(1) and subject to Section 6.51(4) of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 70 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, impose an interest rate of 5% for rates (and charges) and costs of proceedings to recover such charges that remain unpaid after becoming due and payable.

**Recommendation 7 – Instalment Charges**

That Council in accordance with section 6.45(3) of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 67 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, Council imposes administration fees (excluding eligible pensioners and seniors) as:

- Payment of rates and charges by instalments (not including first instalment) \$10 per instalment and there be no instalment interest for instalments that remain outstanding after the due date;
- Payment of rates and charges by alternative arrangement to be \$30 per arrangement, and to incur penalty interest of 3% for rates remaining outstanding after due date.

**Recommendation 8 – Concessions for Rates**

That Council in accordance with section 6.47 of the Local Government Act 1995 Council resolves to grant concession for the following categories of rates.

Mining UV - a concession of up to 20% where the applicant holds a vehicle licence from the Department of Transport as a bona fide prospector.

Rural UV – a concession of up to 50% may be granted where the applicant can demonstrate that the property is used for rural pursuit not supporting mining or other non-rural activity.

General Rates – a concession of up to 100% may be granted to community groups who lease or own their premises and meet criteria as per Council Policy.

### **Recommendation 9 – Early Payment Incentive**

That Council in accordance with the Local Government Act 1995 Section 6.46, incentives totalling \$2,500 in cash, be awarded randomly to residential property owners who meet the criteria and who pay in full their rates and charges prior to the close of business the due date.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize - \$1,000
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - \$750
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - \$500
- 4<sup>th</sup> Prize - \$250

#### Criteria

- Property assessment must be zoned residential.
- All current charges levied for the 2024/25 financial year must be paid by the due date.
- All arrears including penalty interest and legal charges must be paid in full.
- Each property assessment can only win one prize per year.
- Elected Members and Council staff shall be eligible to win prizes.

### **Recommendation 10 – Adoption of Variance**

That Council Pursuant to Regulation 34(5) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 and AASB 1031 Materiality, a variance of 10% and a minimum of \$10,000 is to be used in the Statements of Financial Activity and Annual Budget Review for the 2024/25 financial year.

### **Recommendation 11 – Members Allowances**

That Council in accordance with Section 5.98 of the Local Government Act 1995 that allowances for the year ending 30 June 2025 be set as:

President Allowance	\$39,988
Deputy President Allowance	\$9,998
Sitting Fee – President Sitting Fee	\$27,425
Sitting Fee – (all members)	\$17,711
Telecommunications Allowance	\$3,500

### **Recommendation 12 – Fees and Charges**

That Council in accordance with section 6.16 of the Local Government Act 1995 ADOPT the schedule of fees and charges as attached.

### **Recommendation 13 – Adoption of the 2024/25 Annual Budget Statement and Notes**

That Council ADOPT the 2024/25 Statutory Annual Budget and Notes forming part of the budget for the year ending 30 June 2025 as presented.

- 10 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF MEETING**
- 10.1 Elected Members**
- 10.2 Shire Officers**
- 11 CLOSURE OF MEETING**