



2025 - 2026 Budget & Rates Information



Did you know?

Council budgets are set to meet the aspirations, priorities and vision of their communities, as laid out in the strategic community plans.

Your Councillors are part of your community – they live and work in your community and pay rates too.

Rates revenue makes up just 53% of the Shires total operating revenue and the Shire works hard to leverage as much revenue from sources other than rates to minimise rates payments, whilst still maintaining a high level of service to the community. Other sources of revenue include capital, operating and planning grants, fees and charges and sponsorships.

The Shire of Chittering continues to be one of the highest growing regional areas in Western Australia with the population now exceeding 6753.

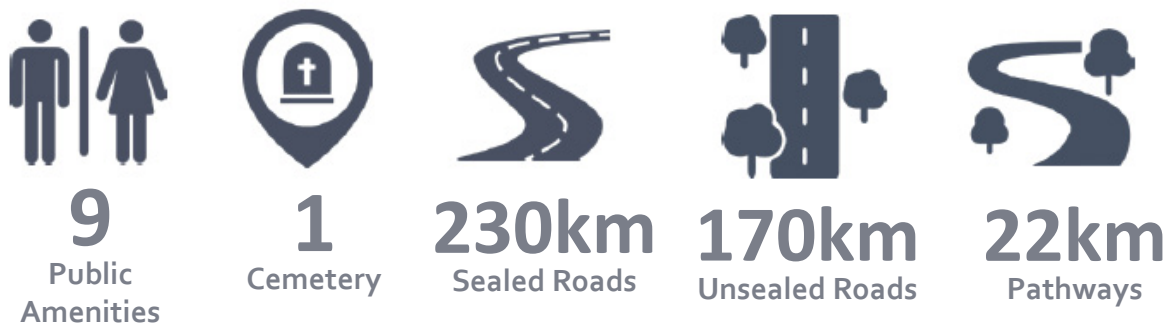
The Shire is working hard to continue to provide the services and infrastructure our growing community needs in the most financially responsible manner, whilst ensuring we look after our environmental and cultural heritage.

Where do your rates go?

Rates are a contribution each ratepayer makes towards the cost of providing quality facilities, community buildings, recreational areas and efficient administrative services to our entire community and its many visitors.

Services provided by the Shire include the upkeep of community facilities, parks, library services, roads, health, sanitation, bushfire services, planning, rangers, building control and operation of recreational facilities.

Our Assets:



What will be delivered for the community in the 2025/2026 financial year?



Fire

- Installation of air conditioner in Bindoon Fire Station
- Extension to Muchea Fire Station
- Installation of Electronic fire danger rating signs
- Emergency water supply (Sandown Park, Bindoon Mountain Bike Park, Sussex Bend)



Cemetery

- Installation of panels to shelter
- Landscaping



Community Buildings

- Construction of Lower Chittering Youth and Community Hub
- Painting at Ferguson House and Chinkabee
- Upgraded kitchen and toilet at Wannamal Hall
- Disabled parking and associated path at Sandown Park



Mountain Bike Park

- Continued revegetation



Roads - \$2.3 Million on Capital Roadworks

- Further 1.5km seal of North Road
- Intersection works at Wells Glover Road and Bindoon Moora Road
- Reconstruct sections of Flat Rocks Road
- Reseal sections of Forrest Hills Parade
- Re sheet 500m of Waldeck West Road
- Reseal 1km of Sugar Gum Drive
- Reseal 1.9km of Ghost Gum Ridge
- Reconstruct sections of Chittering Valley Road



Operational

- Major review of Strategic Community Plan
- Taste of Chittering and Wear Ya Wellies
- Year 1 of 3-year Community Resilience Program
- Storm Water Development Plan
- Relinquish the Shires share of the Bindoon Senior and Community Housing to the Department of Communities
- Continued support of Chittering Landcare

Rates set for 2025/26

This year, your Council decided on a rates increase of 6% of which:

- 3.5% is allocated to the cost of Shire services
- 2.5% is allocated to allow the Shire to build reserves for future building and infrastructure projects.

As a result, the budget includes an allocation of \$192,000 to the 'Building and Infrastructure Future Fund'.

This allocation is essential for the following reasons:

- **Proactive Infrastructure Planning**
Many of our essential assets—roads, drainage, public facilities—are aging and will require significant investment in the coming years. By setting aside funds now, we can reduce the risk of sudden large expenditures or emergency repairs that could otherwise result in service disruptions or more severe rate hikes in the future.
- **Reduced Reliance on Debt**
By building a reserve through gradual, planned contributions, we can fund future capital works with less dependence on borrowing. This approach reduces long-term interest costs and financial risk for the community.
- **Stability and Predictability**
A modest and planned rate increase now allows for predictable funding of upcoming capital projects, avoiding sharp, reactive rate spikes later. It ensures smoother budgeting for both the council and ratepayers.
- **Improved Access to Grant Funding**
Having reserve funds available can strengthen applications for state or federal grants, as many programs require matching contributions or evidence of local financial commitment.
- **Intergenerational Equity**
This approach ensures current users of infrastructure contribute fairly to the cost of maintaining and eventually replacing it, rather than placing the entire burden on future ratepayers.

2025 - 26 Rates

Rate Category	2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026
Unimproved Vale (UV)	0.5424	0.5069
Gross Rental Value (GRV)	7.9070	8.4231

Pensioner and Senior Concessions

State Government Rebates on Council rates and charges are available to eligible pensioners and seniors. Information on registering as a pensioner or senior is located on the back of your rates notice. Please contact the Shire's Administration for information on how to apply for any rebates that may apply to your rates assessment. Rebates to pensioners and seniors under the Rates and Charges (Rebates and Deferments) Act 1992 are funded by the Government of Western Australia.

Emergency Services Levy (ESL)

You will notice on your rates a charge called "ESL". This is the State Government imposed Emergency Services Levy. The Shire acts as a collection point for this charge, which is added to your council rates. For more information about the charge please visit the Department of Fire and Emergency Services website: www.dfes.wa.gov.au

Payment of Rates

Your rates are due and payable by 28 August 2025. All property owners are jointly and severally liable for overdue rates. These rates will be subject to accrual of penalty interest and legal recovery action when overdue. Any costs associated with such action is the responsibility of the property owners and will be added to the rates assessment accordingly.

Instalment Options

An instalment option for the payment of rates is provided to all ratepayers. This allows for the payment of rates and charges by four separate amounts. The first instalment of the exact amount is required to be made by the due date of 28 August 2025. Failure to comply with this will result in the instalment option being withdrawn. Instalment payments include an administration fee of \$30, and an interest charge of 5.5% per annum.

Instalment	Due Date
First Instalment	Thursday 28 August 2025
Second Instalment	Thursday 30 October 2025
Third Instalment	Monday 5 January 2026
Final Instalment	Monday 9 March 2026

Pay your rates in full by Thursday 28 August 2025, for your chance to **WIN!**



\$1,000 Cash Prize



Davey Totalflow Pressure Pump & Optional Onsite Consultation



\$250 Voucher for Inspections



Outback Splash Mini Group Pass



4x Perth Zoo Passes



\$100 Meat Pack



\$200 Cash Prize



\$500 Cash Prize



\$100 Visa Gift Card



\$50 Taylor's Kitchen Voucher



Photography Session Valued at \$750



\$200 Meat Pack



Museum Membership for Two & 100th Anniversary of Ford Set of Pennies



5x Vouchers Electrical Air and Data



2x Tickets to Li-Wei Qin plays Tchaikovsky



Philips SmartBright Solar Floodlight

Thank you to our 2025-26 Rates Incentive Prize Draw Sponsors!



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