

Your Rates Pack

2023/
2024

Building a sustainable future for all

It has been a busy start to the 2023/24 Financial Year for the Shire.

While Council remains aware of the cost of living pressures on residents, it is also experiencing similar impacts with rising prices putting pressure on the Shire's budget.

As with previous years, the Shire and Council has been mindful of these pressures when adopting the annual budget.

Therefore, a 3.5 per cent rates yield increase, (plus a forecast 0.5 per cent increase in anticipated number of rateable properties), will bring the Shire's operating budget for 2023/24 to \$58.3 million.

Income from rates makes up 58.6 per cent of the operating budget, with the remainder of funds predominantly received from government funding, grants and fees and charges.

From the operating budget, \$13.1 million is allocated to the following:

- \$3.1m for the property maintenance program
- \$5m for the civil works maintenance program
- \$5m for the maintenance of ovals, parks and reserves

Meanwhile, a \$15.8M Capital Works Program for 2023/24 will deliver key projects such as:

- Converting street lights to LED (\$1.9m)
- Introduction/roll out of FOGO waste services (\$1.8m)
- Sawyers Valley Oval reticulation, drainage upgrade (\$170,000)
- Glen Forrest Tennis Club convert light to LED (\$50,000)
- Brown Park Community Centre upgrade (\$272,000)
- Brown Park Cricket Practice Nets (\$100,000)
- Norris Park upgrade BBQ (\$30,000)
- Lake Leschenaultia enhancements (\$436,500)

Please refer to the overleaf diagram for an overview of what your rates deliver.

**Go green
with e-Rates!**

Did you know that you can receive your rates electronically? Visit the Shire's website to sign up to receive future rates notices by email.

Cr James Martin
Shire President



Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo by Willem Heyneker



WHAT YOUR RATES DELIVER

Shire of Mundaring is committed to making our community a vibrant place to live and work and an exciting destination to visit. Each year we deliver important facilities and services to our community. Our operating budget for **2023/24 is \$58.3 million**. This is made up of rates income, government funding, and fees and charges. Below is a snapshot of how some of these funds will be allocated to support our community this financial year.

Family and Children's Services \$5.75m

Delivery of early childhood and parenting services, funded by government grants and fees.

Libraries \$1.49m

The Shire runs two public libraries in Mundaring and Boya.

Community Engagement \$920k

Delivering a community grants program, cultural and artistic events, and skills-based workshops creates a vibrant, connected community.

Bushfire Brigades and Fire Prevention \$2m

Supporting nine volunteer bushfire brigades; mitigation and education activities to ensure we are bushfire ready.

Health Admin/Inspections \$462k

Conducting health inspections, managing pests, noise complaints and water quality testing at Lake Leschenaultia and our aquatic facilities.

Animal Control \$686k

Promoting responsible pet ownership and working to ensure the safety of our community.

Access for All \$156k

The Shire facilitates an Inclusion and Disability Access Advisory Group, Active Ageing Network and The Hub of the Hills.



Making it happen \$5.28m

Corporate services such as customer service, record keeping and finance. Includes civic/administration building costs, loan interest repayments and depreciation.

Youth Services \$153k

Giving young people a say through The Youth Crew and enabling community groups to provide initiatives through the Youth Engagement Partnership Fund.

Tourism \$200k

Our Visitor Centre promotes Mundaring and surrounds as an attractive tourist destination in the Perth Hills.

Environmental Management \$828k

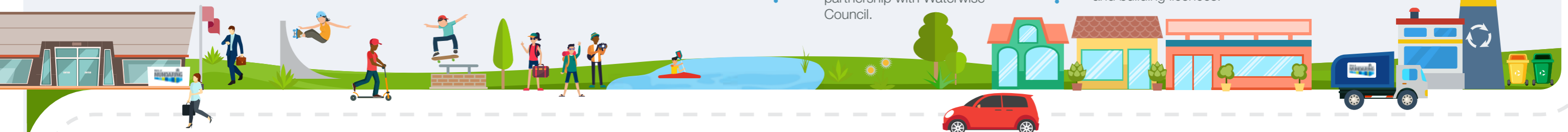
Protecting bushland and watercourses through programs such as Seedlings for Landcare, Mundaring Environmental Art Project, workshops and partnership with Waterwise Council.

Town Planning and Statutory Building Services \$1.6m

Developing our strategic planning framework to balance growth while protecting the area's distinct sense of place. Assessing planning, subdivision and building licences.

Waste Management \$8.5m

Operating two Community Recycling Centres in Chidlow and Mundaring, a Container Deposit facility in Mundaring, domestic waste and recycling collections and annual bulk and green waste verge collections.



Council Members and Council Meetings \$690k

Eight democratically elected* councillors and one Shire President to represent community interests.

* 2023 is an election year

Aquatic Facilities \$986k

Two public pools, Bilgoman and Mount Helena Aquatic Centres, plus financial support for Woorlooloo pool.

Recreation Centres \$906k

Including the state-of-the-art Mundaring Arena, Brown Park and Elsie Austin Pavilion.

Halls \$940k

The Shire manages and maintains 18 halls which are available for community hire.

Recreation Grounds \$3.45m

Including 37 playgrounds, 34 plexi-pave hardcourts, eight BMX jump and skate parks, 11 ovals, 70km Railway Reserves Heritage Trail and 400+ hectares public open space.

Street Lighting \$725k

The Shire pays Western Power to run and maintain street lighting.

Roads, Footpaths, Drainage and Public Works \$5m

Maintaining 681km of roads, 448km of kerbs, 17 bridges, 115 bus shelters, 183km of drainage pipes, 37km of open drains and 135km of footpaths.



How can I pay my rates?



For your convenience, there are three options to choose from when it comes to paying your rates:

Option 1 – Payment IN FULL by **19 October 2023**

Option 2 – Payment via four equal INSTALMENTS

To qualify for instalments, the exact amount shown at Option 2 on your Rates Notice must be received in one whole payment by **19 October 2023**.

First instalment due **19 October 2023**

Second instalment due **11 January 2024**

Third instalment due **14 March 2024**

Fourth instalment due **16 May 2024**

Option 3 - Alternative payment arrangements/
direct debit

Requests for payment arrangements and/or direct debits must be notified to the Shire's Rates Office (08) 9290 6617 prior to the due date specified on your Rates Notice. Please be aware that the following conditions apply:

- Interest charged at the rate of 7% per annum on the rates and 11% on ESL charges outstanding after the due date for payment and will continue to accrue daily until settled in full.
- The Shire will confirm the receipt of the payment plan.

Difficulty paying your rates?

If you are experiencing difficulty paying your rates by the specified due date, please contact the Shire Rates Officer via email shire@mundaring.wa.gov.au or call (08) 9290 6617.



Connect to popular Shire services with My Mundaring Online:

- Find your bin days/Bulk Waste Collection date
- Register your cat(s) and dog(s)
- Manage your CRC entries/access your electronic pass
- Request a Permit to Burn
- Review/pay your rates balance
- Log a request for assistance.

Visit the Shire's website or scan the QR code to sign-up today.



Get ready to FOGO

Reducing landfilled food and garden organics is a major waste minimisation priority for both national and state governments.

Food and garden organics represent the single largest fraction in a household garbage bin, and this waste has a detrimental impact on both the environment and landfill.

To address this, the Shire will begin the transition to the new 3-bin FOGO (Food Organics/ Garden Organics system). This is anticipated to commence on 1 July 2024.

This system will consist of:

- a new 240L lime-green FOGO lidded bin (collected weekly)
- a 140L red general waste lidded bin (collected fortnightly)
- a 240L yellow lidded bin (collected fortnightly)

More details about the introduction of the FOGO system will follow in the coming months. Access the Shire's website to learn more about FOGO collection including a range of frequently asked questions (FAQ's).

Visit recycleright.wa.gov.au for additional information and to access a range of waste, recycling and sustainability resources from Recycle Right.

**Your food organics
and garden organics are
turned into compost.**



FIREBREAK AND FUEL LOAD NOTICE



Bush Fires Act 1954

Section 33

Notice to all owners and occupiers of land situated within the Shire of Mundaring

Pursuant to section 33(1) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, the Shire of Mundaring (the Shire) gives notice that the owners and/or occupiers of land within the Shire of Mundaring are required to undertake the following works on land owned or occupied by them. This must be done by **1 November each year and maintained until 31 March the year following.**

DEFINITIONS WITHIN THIS NOTICE

Authorised Officer - means an employee of the Shire appointed as a Bush Fire Control Officer pursuant to the powers conferred in Section 38 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

Trafficable - means to be able to travel from one point to another in an emergency services vehicle on a clear surface, unhindered, without any obstruction that may endanger such vehicles. It must not terminate, lead to a dead end, or have any pinch points without provision for egress to a safe place or a cleared turnaround area of not less than an 18-metre diameter.

Inflammable Material - means any substance which will catch fire easily without contact with flames or with a low ignition point, such as but not limited to petrol or liquefied petroleum gas.

Fuel Depot / Fuel Storage Area - means an area of land, a building or a structure where fuel, i.e. (petrol, diesel, kerosene, liquid gas or any other fossil fuel) is kept in any container or vessel.

Flammable Material - means any fine fuels, plant, tree, grass, substance, object, thing or material that may or is likely to catch fire and burn or any other thing deemed by an Authorised Officer to be capable of combustion.

Vertical Clearance - means a continuous, uninterrupted vertical line at a right angle to the horizontal baseline of the firebreak to a minimum height of 4 metres from the ground.

Firebreak - means a strip or area of ground, with a minimum width of 3 metres and a vertical clearance of 4 metres, immediately inside all external boundaries of any lot and constructed to a trafficable surface that is kept and maintained totally clear of all flammable material and includes the pruning and removal of any living or dead trees, scrub or any other material encroaching onto it or into the vertical clearance of the firebreak area. Firebreaks may be constructed by one or more of the following methods: ploughing, cultivating, scarifying, raking, burning, chemical spraying, blowing or other methods as approved by an Authorised Officer.

Fuel Loads

Fine Fuel Loads - means the leaf litter on the ground, including leaves, twigs (up to 6mm in diameter) and bark. A fine fuel load depth of 5mm from the top of the layer to the mineral earth beneath indicates approximately 2 tonnes per hectare. A fine fuel load depth of 15mm from the top of the layer to the mineral earth beneath indicates approximately 8 tonnes per hectare.

Coarse Fuel Loads - means branches, logs etc.

Maintaining Fuel Loads - relates to managing fuel loads described in this Notice. Reducing fuel load levels does not necessarily require the removal of existing natural vegetation. A combination of methods can be utilised, including planned burning, raking, weed removal, pruning and/or removing dead plant material.

Managed Vegetation - includes vegetation that is pruned away from buildings, under pruned to minimise contact with ground fuels, and that is kept free of dead suspended matter such as twigs, leaves and bark.

Notice to all owners and occupiers of land situated within the Shire of Mundaring

Habitable Buildings - means any building or other dwelling suitable for human residency, occupation, or use. This includes attached or adjacent structures such as garages, carports, verandas, or similar roofed structures that are attached to, or within 6 metres, of the dwelling or primary building.

Asset Protection Zone (APZ) - is an area of very low fuel levels surrounding a habitable building extending to a minimum of 20 metres out from any external walls of the building, attached structures, or adjacent structures within 6 metres of that building. On sloping ground, it shall increase at 1 metre for every degree in slope on the sides of the habitable building that are exposed to downslope natural vegetation.

1. The Land owner (or occupier) is required to do the following

1.1 All land with an area of 5000sqm up to 50,000sqm (5 Hectares) with a building on it must

- a) Maintain all grass on the land to a height no greater than 5cm.
- b) Install a firebreak around all structures outside of your APZ and immediately inside all external boundaries of the land.
- c) Maintain fuel loads in natural bush areas at less than 8 tonnes per hectare across the land.
- d) Maintain an APZ in line with the requirements of section 1.5 of this Notice.

1.2 All land with an area of 50,000sqm or greater, with a building on it must

- a) Maintain all grass to a height no greater than 5cm for a distance of 10m from any firebreak.
- b) All other grasses within the area must be managed by slashing or effective grazing by livestock or as directed by an Authorised Officer.
- c) Install a firebreak around all structures outside of your APZ and immediately inside all external boundaries of the land.
- d) Maintain fuel loads in natural bush areas at less than 8 tonnes per hectare across the land.
- e) Maintain an APZ in line with the requirements of section 1.5 of this Notice.

1.3 All land with an area of 5,000sqm or less, with a building on it must

- a) Maintain all grass on the land to a height no greater than 5cm.
- b) Maintain fuel loads in natural bush areas at less than 8 tonnes per hectare across the land.
- c) Maintain an APZ in line with the requirements of section 1.5 of this Notice.

1.4 All vacant land with an area less than 2000sqm

Must ensure all grass be maintained on the land to a height no greater than 5cm and that fuel loads in natural bush areas are maintained to less than 8 tonnes per hectare across the land.

All vacant land with an area more than 2000sqm must:

- a) Install a firebreak immediately inside all external boundaries of the land. All land with an area of less than 50,000sqm (5 Hectares), all grass must be maintained on the land to a height no greater than 5cm.
- b) All land with an area of 50,000sqm (5 Hectares) or greater, the grass must be maintained on the land to a height no greater than 5cm for a distance of 10 metres from any firebreak, and all other grasses managed by slashing or effective grazing by livestock or as directed by an Authorised Officer.
- c) Maintain fuel loads in natural bush areas to less than 8 tonnes per hectare across the land.

1.5 Asset Protection Zone Specification

- a) Maintain all grass on the land to a height no greater than 5cm.
- b) Fuel loads maintained at 2 tonnes per hectare or lower.



- c) Clear separation between adjoining or nearby tree crowns.
- d) Small group/s of trees within close proximity to one another may be treated as one crown provided the combined crowns do not exceed the area of a large or mature crown size for that species.
- e) No trees/shrubs over 2 metres high are to be within 2 metres of a habitable building.
- f) Trees and shrubs must be under-pruned to a minimum height of 2 metres from the ground.
- g) Shrubs over 2 metres high must not be planted in groups close to habitable buildings, ensuring there is a gap of at least three times the height (at maturity) of the shrub away from habitable buildings.
- h) Ensure no part of a tree overhangs any buildings.
- i) Roofs, gutters, and walls of all buildings on the land are free of fine fuel loads and other flammable material.
- j) Ensure paths and non-flammable features immediately adjacent to habitable buildings are installed.
- k) Wood piles and flammable materials are stored a safe distance from habitable buildings.
- l) Ensure roofs, gutters, and walls of all buildings on the land are free of flammable matter, for example, the accumulation of leaves in gutters, wood piles against building walls and flammable/inflammable materials against that building or stored under pole-framed houses.

1.6 Fuel Depot /Storage Area, Haystacks / Stockpiled Flammable Material

- a) Remove all flammable material within 10 metres of where it is stored.
- b) Install a firebreak immediately adjacent to any haystacks or stockpiled flammable material.

1.7 Application to vary the above Requirements/Arrangements

An application to vary any of the above requirements can be made to the Shire to implement measures in the case of geographical or environmental obstructions. This will be assessed by an Authorised Officer, and will be granted for a time period as decided by the Authorised Officer assessing your application. If approved you must still comply with the other sections of this notice. If not approved, your property must still comply with this notice. Bushfire Management Plans, Bushfire Management Statements, or Fuel Load Management Plans, approved by the Shire to reduce and mitigate fire hazards within a particular subdivision, lot or other area of land anywhere in the district, are also included.

1.8 Additional Works

- a) All driveways must be clear of flammable material and accessible to allow for the safe access and egress of emergency services vehicles as deemed by the Authorised Officer.
- b) In addition to the requirements of this Notice, you may be required to carry out further works that are considered necessary by an Authorised Officer and specified by way of a separate written notice forwarded to the address of the owner/s as shown on the Shire rates record for the relevant land.

The Shire advises that its officers, servants, workmen, contractors, vehicles, machinery, and appliances (as the officers deem fit) may carry out the requisitions of this notice that are not complied with by the date specified above, and any costs and expenses incurred may be recovered from you as the owner and/or occupier of the land.

The penalty for failing or neglecting to comply with this Notice is a fine not exceeding \$5000, and a person in default is also liable, whether prosecuted or not, to pay the costs of performing the work directed by this Notice if it is not carried out by the owner and/or occupier by the date required by this Notice.

Supplementary requirements to this notice
Section 24F and 24G (Restricted Burning)
Burning of Garden Refuse

- a) 1 sqm piles of garden refuse may be burnt without a permit between 6 pm and 11 pm.
- b) No more than one pile of garden refuse is to be burnt at any one time.
- c) A permit to burn before 6 pm is required, and all permit conditions must be followed.
- d) One able-bodied adult person must be in attendance at all times or as specified on your permit.

The following requirements must be carried out by the responsible person in attendance

- Piles to be fully extinguished by midnight. Fully extinguished means no heat, smoke or steam, or white ash is to be present where the fire was situated.
- The persons responsible for the lighting of piles are required to check the Fire Danger Rating and weather conditions to ensure burning is allowed at that time.

If the requirements of this Notice are carried out by burning, such burning must be in accordance with the relevant provisions of the ***Bush Fires Act 1954***.

By order of the Council.



Jonathan Throssell
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER