Published Minutes

Special Council Meeting

(electronic)

Tuesday, 28 July 2026

Date:	Tuesday 28 July 2026
Time:	6:30 PM
Location:	Electronic
Distribution Date:	Thursday, 29 July 2026

Shire of Ashburton
Special Council Meeting

The Chief Executive Officer recommends the endorsement of these minutes at the next Ordinary Council Meeting.

Keith Woodward PSM
Chief Executive Officer
31 July 2026

These minutes were confirmed by Council as a true and accurate record of proceedings at the Special Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 28 July 2026.

Presiding Member ____________________

Date 18 August 2026

Disclaimer

The Shire of Ashburton warns anyone who has an application lodged with Council must obtain, and should only rely on, written confirmation of the outcomes of the application following the Council meeting, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by Council in respect of the application. No responsibility whatsoever is implied, or accepted, by the Shire of Ashburton for any act, omission, statement, or intimation occurring during a Council meeting. Artificial intelligence tools may have been used in the preparation of these Minutes.

Contents

1 Declaration Of Opening

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 6:30pm.

1.1 Acknowledgement Of Country

As representatives of the Shire of Ashburton Council, we respectfully acknowledge the local Indigenous people, the traditional custodians of this land where we are meeting upon today and pay our respects to them and all their elders past and present.

2 Announcement Of Visitors

There were no visitors in attendance.

3 Attendance

3.1 Present

Elected Members:	SP A Smith	Shire President
	Cr A Sullivan	Paraburdoo Ward
	Cr R de Pledge	Ashburton-Tablelands Ward
	Cr K White	Onslow Ward
	Cr T Fox	Pannawonica Ward
	Cr L Rumble JP	Paraburdoo Ward
	Cr K Day	Tom Price Ward
	Cr C Rogers	Tom Price Ward
Employees:	K Woodward	Chief Executive Officer
	C McGurk	Director Community Development
	D Kennedy	Director Corporate Services
	G Harris	Director Infrastructure Services
	S Fernandes	Manager Governance
	L Milne	ICT Coordinator
	J Rouse	Governance Officer
Guests:	There were no guests in attendance.	
Members of Public:	There were no members of the public in attendance at the commencement of the meeting.	
Members of media:	There were no members of the media in attendance at the commencement of the meeting.	

3.2 Apologies

Cr B Noone

3.3 Approved Leave Of Absence

Nil

4 Question Time

4.1 Public Question Time

Nil

5 Declaration By Members

5.1 Due Consideration By Elected Members To The Agenda

Elected Members were requested to note they have given due consideration to all matters contained in this agenda.

5.2 Declaration Of Interest

A member who has an Impartiality, Proximity or Financial interest in any matter to be discussed at this meeting must disclose the nature of the interest either in a written notice, given to the Chief Executive Officer, prior to the meeting, or at the meeting immediately before the matter is discussed.

A member who makes a disclosure in respect to an interest must not preside at the part of the meeting which deals with the matter, or participate in, or be present during any discussion or decision-making process relative to the matter, unless the disclosing member is permitted to do so under Section 5.68 or Section 5.69 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

There were no declarations of interest disclosed.

6 Announcements By The Presiding Member And Councillors Without Discussion

Nil

7 Applications for Leave of Absence

7.1 Application for Leave of Absence

Council Decision	**127/2026**
Moved	**Cr L Rumble JP**
Seconded	**Cr T Fox**

That Council approves the request for leave of absence, for Cr K Day of Tom Price Ward for the period from 22 September 2026 to 22 September 2026 inclusive.

For:	**A Smith, A Sullivan, R de Pledge, K White, T Fox, L Rumble JP, K Day and C Rogers**
Against:	**Nil**

Carried 8/0

8 En Bloc Resolutions

8.1 Agenda Items Adopted En Bloc

Nil

9 Recommendations From Committee

Nil

10 Corporate Services Reports

10.1 2026-2027 Annual Budget

File Reference	GV04
Applicant or Proponent(s)	Not Applicable
Author	R McDermott, Chief Financial Officer
Authorising Officer	D Kennedy, Director Corporate Services
Previous Meeting Reference	Ordinary Council Meeting 19 May 2026 - Item 13.1 – 071/2026 Ordinary Council Meeting 19 August 2025 – Item 13.8 – 248/2025
Disclosure(s) of interest	Author – Nil
	Authorising Officer – Nil
Attachments	1. Statutory Budget 2026-2027 2. 2026-2027 Project Listing 3. Carry Forward Projects 2025-2026 4. Differential Rates - Ministerial Approval

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the 2026-2027 Annual Budget for adoption.

Council is requested to adopt the Annual Budget, which includes –

- The Municipal Fund Budget for 2026–2027;
- General differential rates, minimum payments, and instalment arrangements;
- Elected Member payments; and
- Material variance reporting parameters.

Background

The development of the 2026-2027 Annual Budget has been developed over several months and has included:

- The approval by Council of a Statement of Objects and Reasons for Differential Rating for public advertising/submission period. (1 submission received);
- Benchmarked with Council's Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) adopted in April 2024;
- Five workshops with Elected Members aimed at delivering information, exploring concepts and clarifying options;
- Referral to Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, Strategies and Asset Management Plans; and
- Obtaining Ministerial approval for the GRV Transient Worker Accommodation differential rate. (Attachment 4).

Comments

Annual Budget

The 2026-2027 Annual Budget has been prepared to include information required by the *Local Government Act 1995, Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* and the Australian Accounting Standards. The main features of the draft budget include:

Revenue

- Cost of living pressures continue to be acknowledged with residential rates maintained at the 2025-2026 rate in the dollar and waste collection charge increases kept in line with CPI.
- Rate revenue growth is conservatively forecast at a moderate 4.2% ($3.1 million). This reflects an easing of the substantial rate growth of prior years that was driven by new resource projects and includes 3 new Temporary Workforce accommodation facilities being gazetted to Gross Rental Value (GRV).
- Total rate revenue for 2026-2027 is estimated at $77.2 million, including interim rates of $30,000.
- Investment interest rates are anticipated to stabilise during the year following a period of recent Reserve Bank interest rate increases. Interest revenue has subsequently been budgeted conservatively in-line with forecast 2025-2026 levels at $4.8 million.
- Fees and charges at $19.9 million account for 17.6% of revenue. Much of this revenue is derived from waste and airport operations.
- Revenue at the Pilbara Regional Waste Management Facility (PRWMF) has been budgeted at $9.4 million. This includes forecast major campaign revenue in line with 2025/26 business developments.
- The PRWMF fees and charges have been reviewed with the majority being increased by 4.0%.
- Total operating revenue budget of $113.1 million, includes Inspire Funding of $1.6 million for the Pannawonica decking and adventure playground, and $1.6 million for the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) flood damage repairs.

Differential Rates 2026-2027

Rate Category		Rate in Dollar	Minimum Payment	% of Revenue
GRV	Residential	0.06771	$1,390	7%
GRV	Commercial / Industrial	0.08921	$1,390	2%
GRV	Transient Workforce Accommodation	0.19946	$1,390	13%
UV	Pastoral	0.19250	$1,390	2%
UV	Non-Pastoral	0.37725	$1,390	76%

- The proposed differential general rates were approved by Council on 21 April 2026 and advertised for public comment in accordance with section 6.36 of the Act.
- One submission was received by the close of submission date for Council to consider.
- Ministerial approval was required for the GRV Transient Workforce Accommodation differential rate category. This is due to the rate of 0.19946 being more than twice the lowest differential rate in the GRV category. (GRV Residential – 0.06771).

- No concessions have been provided for in the budget. Council has however provided delegated authority to consider written concession applications from leaseholders of pastoral land, with the principal factor in considering each application being the capacity of the applicant to pay.

Expenditure

- The Shire's operating expenditure is forecast at $93.1 million with Employee Costs and Materials & Contracts accounting for 76% of this figure.
- After adding back depreciation (non-cash item) the Shire is forecasting a net cash from operating activities of $20.0 million. Cashflow to fund the capital works program remains strong.

Employee Costs

- The employee costs budget of $31.3 million is based on the current workforce and a full employment ratio of 85%. Historically the Shire has been unable to operate at this level due to a turnover rate of between 25% - 40%.
- A Workforce Plan has been developed that has informed the 2026-2027 Annual Budget and will be used as the basis to update the Shire's Long Term Financial Plan prior to the commencement of 2027-2028 budget deliberations.
- The employee costs budget incorporates the new Industrial Agreement approved in early 2026.
- A breakup of employment expenses is provided below.

Component	Amount	Comments
Full time employees (FTE)		
Salary & Wages	$22.2 M	~ 220 staff (including casuals)
Superannuation	$ 3.2 M	12% Shire 6% matching contribution scheme
Allowances	$ 3.3 M	IA – Ashburton Allowance
Training & Development	$ 0.6 M	Training and development costs
Recruitment	$ 0.4 M	Including relocation costs
Workers Compensation	$ 0.6 M	Local Government Insurance Service (LGIS)
Other	$ 1.0 M	Agency staff, FBT, Uniforms, Health & Wellbeing Allowance, Employee Recognition.

Materials & Contracts

- Materials and Contracts (goods and services) budget of $37.1 million includes items such as legal expenses, consultancy, maintenance, communication expenses, advertising, memberships, periodicals, hire expenses, leases, postage, freight and information technology expenses across the Shire's many business units.
- This is down $8.3m million on the prior year's budget, this decrease predominantly relates to the timing of realignment works of Pilbara Utilities associated with the proposed Tom Price administration building and spoilbank remediation near the Onslow Airport.
- Consultancy expenditure for several years has been significantly underspent. In 2025-2026 the budget in this area was reduced from $7.6 million to $5.2m million.

This reduction has been maintained for 2026-2027 at $5.2 million. Most of this budget has been corporatised into the Office of the CEO, Infrastructure Services and Community directorates to allow for executive oversight and prioritisation. The below identifies the major recurrent consultancy expenditure within the materials and contracts budget.

- Outsourcing of Project Management within Community Development to assist with major capital works - $850K
- Outsourced IT specialist services including cyber security, disaster recovery and network engineering - $500K
- Outsourced Development Services for planning and building approvals - $300K.

- Legal fees budget has been included at $0.9 million, down slightly from 2025-2026 of $1.0 million based on recent history. Wittenoom legal claims account for most of this expense and are difficult to forecast both in terms of timing and quantum. Council is fortunate in that it has a Financial Risks Reserve as a contingency for this area if required.
- A breakup of the materials and contracts budget by major business unit, including carryovers, is below:

Business Unit	Amount
Roads	$6.7M
Communities	$3.2M
Facilities	$3.8M
Waste	$2.2M
Property	$2.2M
ICT	$4.0M
Airport	$1.0M
Town Maintenance	$0.5M
Fleet	$1.4M

Insurance

- As the Shire's property and facility portfolio continues to grow and building costs in the Pilbara escalate, the cost of insurance remains at a commensurately higher rate than inflation. Property insurance alone is near $1.2 million in 2026-27. This includes new assets such as the Minna Oval Sports Pavillion, Ocean View Caravan Park Stage 3, Watson Drive housing development and considers the redevelopment of the Diamond Club.
- Total insurance including Workers Compensation, Public Liability, Motor Vehicle Fleet and Commercial Crime & Cyber Liability is estimated at $2.2 million.

Other Expenditure

- The other expenditure budget of $1.1 million predominately covers donations and subsidies made to community groups, elected member's fees and provision for bad debts.

Capital Expenditure (Attachments 2 and 3)

- Total capital expenditure budget of $72.7 million representing $46.4 million in new projects and $26.3 million of projects and plant purchases funded plus carried forward;
- As per Attachment 2, some items within the Capex program will be treated as an operating expense from an accounting perspective.
- A breakup by Asset Class with major projects (including carry forward projects) is provided below:

Asset Class	Amount	Major Projects
Roads & Drainage	$34.6M	$ 8.9 M – Roebourne – Wittenoom Rd including floodway stabilisation $ 4.3 M – Ashburton – Meekatharra Rd $ 3.3 M – Towera – Towera Lyndon Rds $ 1.9 M – Old Onslow Rd $ 0.7 M – Ashburton Downs Rd $ 6.2 M – Drainage, Onslow $ 2.1 M – Paraburdoo LIA Road reconstruction $ 6.0 M – Floodway construction $ 1.2 M - Footpath construction
Town Infrastructure	$14.2M	$ 12.8 M – Onslow Streetscape Stage 2 $ 0.9 M – Onslow Streetscape Stage 1 $ 0.5 M – South St bore
Parks & Recreation	$7.6M	$ 1.6 M – Pannawonica Decking and Destination playground (Operating expenditure) $ 3.4M – Softball Clubhouse redevelopment $ 1.0 M – Onslow MPC air-conditioning $ 1.0 M – Facilities renewal various $ 0.5 M – Pool shade and winch systems $ 0.1 M – Clem Thompson cricket pitch replacement
Airport	$2.9 M	$ 2.3 M – Design works runway strengthening $ 0.6 M – Terminal air-conditioning
Housing	$7.9M	$ 5.5 M – South Street development $ 2.0 M – Tom Price residential purchase $ 0.4 M – Onslow residential purchase
Plant Purchases	$ 5.3M	$ 5.3M – Annual Plant Replacement Program (including CFWD 25/26)

- No new loans are proposed.
- An estimated surplus of $10.8 million is anticipated to be brought forward from 30 June 2026. This is an unaudited figure that supports the large carry-forward program and includes the prepayment of the Shire’s annual Financial Assistance Grants. Any change will be brought back to Council as part of a future budget review.

Determination of material variance

Each year Council is required to adopt a percentage or value for the purposes of reporting material variances in the consolidated monthly Statement of Financial Activity.

This value or percentage is then used throughout the financial year to identify potential areas in Council's actual revenue and expenses which may not be in keeping with Council's budget.

The early identification of those potential issues can assist in better utilisation and allocation of Council funds and resources.

It is proposed to increase the material variance reporting limit from 10% or $50,000 whichever is the greater, to 10% or $100,000 whichever is greater. This is consistent with the City of Karratha who also have a material variance of 10% or $100,000 whichever is greater.

It should be noted that internally, responsible officers are monitoring variances at a more granular general ledger or job level, and that Finance and Costing Reviews by Business Unit are conducted throughout the year.

Statement of calculation of the Annual Budget

In compiling the Annual Budget, Shire officers have, in accordance with the Local Government Accounting Manual,

- Identified and reviewed recurring operating revenue and expenditure,
- Prepared salary and wage schedules, including proposed new employees, employee increment changes, industrial agreement increases, and the 12.0% Superannuation Guarantee Scheme (SGC),
- Prepared water, power and other essential cost estimates and increase assumptions,
- Prepared capital expenditure forecast based, where possible, on reasonably assumed estimates for construction and/or purchase, together with indicative timing, taking into account resourcing requirements,
- Confirmed grants reasonably expected to be received for both operating and capital projects,
- Forecast the opening Net Current Assets position as of 1 July 2026 based on the most current information available,
- Identified committed carry-forward projects from the previous financial year,
- Flagged committed funds (contract liabilities) and treated these in accordance with accounting standards,
- Obtained revenue estimates for the disposal of non-current assets,
- Obtained estimates from LGIS for insurance, including workers compensation,
- Reviewed Fees and Charges, and
- Prepared the Statutory Annual Budget document in accordance with the standard format recommended by the Department of Local Government.

Consultation

Community
Elected Members
Relevant responsible Shire Officers
Finance Team

Strategic Community Plan

Shire of Ashburton Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032

Strategic Objective	4. Performance - We will lead the organisation, and create the culture, to deliver demonstrated performance excellence to the community.
Strategic Outcome	4.2 Appropriate, sustainable, and transparent management of community funds
Strategy	3 Plan effectively for financial sustainability.

Council Policy

Nil

Financial Implications

Current Financial Year

Carry-over estimates of $28.0 million from the 2025-2026 Financial Year have been included in the draft 2026-2027 Annual Budget presented for adoption. These estimates are subject to change pending outcomes from the final audit in October/November 2026. Any required adjustments will be brought back to Council for endorsement.

Future Financial Year(s)

Specific financial implications are as outlined in the body of this report and as itemised in the draft 2026-2027 Annual Budget attached for adoption.

Legislative Implications

Local Government Act 1995 (the Act)

Section 6.2 requires that not later than 31 August in each financial year, or such extended time as the Minister allows, each local government is to prepare and adopt by absolute majority, in the form and manner prescribed, a budget for its municipal fund for the financial year ending on the next following 30 June.

Divisions 5 and 6 of Part 6 of the Act refer to the setting of budgets and raising of rates and charges. The *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* details the form and content of the budget. The draft 2026-2027 Annual Budget, as presented, is considered to meet statutory requirements. A copy of the 2026-2027 Annual Budget is to be submitted to the Department responsible for Local Government within 30 days of adoption by Council.

Section 5.98 of the Act sets out fees and allowances payable to elected members.

Section 5.98A of the Act sets out the allowance payable to the Deputy President.

Regulations 30-34AD of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* sets the limits, parameters and types of allowances that can be paid to elected members.

Regulation 34 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* requires Council to adopt a percentage or value, calculated in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, to be used in monthly statements of financial activity for reporting material variances.

Section 67 of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* enables a local government to impose an annual charge in respect of premises provided with a waste service by the local government.

Risk Management

Risk has been assessed against the Shire of Ashburton Risk Management Framework.

Theme	Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Inherent Risk Rating	Risk Treatment
Financial impact	Potential cash flow issues may result if the Annual Budget is not adopted.	Unlikely (2)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (5-9)	Provide Elected Members with sufficient information for decision making including budget workshops and community submission period for differential rates.
Reputation (social/community)	Potential reduction in service levels and assets provided to the community if the Annual Budget is not adopted	Unlikely (2)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (5-9)	Provide Elected Members with sufficient information for decision making including budget workshops and community submission period for differential rates.
Compliance	Failing to adopt Annual Budget by 31 August is a compliance breach without Ministerial approval	Unlikely (2)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (5-9)	Provide Elected Members with sufficient information for decision making including budget workshops and community submission period for differential rates.

Based on the inherent risk rating and risk treatments, the residual risk to the Shire is considered to be low.

Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority

Officer Recommendation

That with respect to the adoption of the 2026-2027 Annual Budget, Council,

Recommendation 1 – Budget for 2026-2027

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 6.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995 and Part 3 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996,* Council adopt the Annual Budget as contained in Attachment 1 for the Shire of Ashburton for the 2026-2027 financial year which includes the following:

- Statement of Comprehensive Income by Nature and Type.
- Statement of Cashflows.
- Rating Setting Statement.
- Notes to and Forming Part of the Budget

Absolute Majority Required

Recommendation 2 – General and Minimum Rates, Instalment payment arrangements, and interest

1. For the purpose of yielding the deficiency disclosed by the Municipal Fund Budget adopted at Recommendation 1 above, Council pursuant to Sections 6.32, 6.33, 6.34 and 6.35 of the *Local Government Act 1995* impose the following differential general rates and minimum payments on Gross Rental and Unimproved Values.

   A. General Rates

• Residential	(GRV)	$0.06771 rate in the dollar
• Commercial / Industrial	(GRV)	$0.08921 rate in the dollar
• Transient Worker Accommodation	(GRV)	$0.19946 rate in the dollar
• Pastoral	(UV)	$0.19250 rate in the dollar
• Non-Pastoral	(UV)	$0.37725 rate in the dollar

   B. Minimum Payments

• Residential and Community	(GRV)	$1,390
• Commercial and Industrial	(GRV)	$1,390
• Transient Worker Accommodation	(GRV)	$1,390
• Pastoral	(UV)	$1,390
• Non-Pastoral	(UV)	$1,390

2. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 64(2) of the *Local* Government *(Financial Management) Regulations 1996,* Council nominates the following due dates for the payment in full by instalments:

   Option 1 (Full Payment)

   Full amount of rates and charges including arrears, to be paid on or before 11 September 2026 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rates notice whichever is the later.

Option 2 (Two Instalments)

- First instalment to be made on or before 11 September 2026 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rate notice whichever is later, including all arrears and half the current rates and service charges; and
- Second instalment to be made on or before 11 January 2027, or 2 months after the due date of the first instalment, whichever is later.

Option 3 (Four Instalments)

- First instalment to be made on or before 11 September 2026 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rate notice, whichever is later, including all arrears and a quarter of the current rates and service charges;
- Second instalment to be made on or before 10 November 2026, or 2 months after the due date of the first instalment, whichever is later;
- Third instalment to be made on or before 11 January 2027, or 2 months after the due date of the second instalment, whichever is later; and
- Fourth instalment to be made on or before 12 March 2027, or 2 months after the due date of the third instalment, whichever is later.

3. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995,* and Regulation 67 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996,* Council adopts an instalment administration charge where the owner has elected to pay rates (and service charges) through an instalment option of $17.00 for each instalment after the initial instalment is paid.
4. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 68 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996,* Council adopts an interest rate of 5.5% where the owner has elected to pay rates and service charges through an instalment option.
5. 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,* Council adopts an interest rate of 11% for rates and service charges, and costs of proceedings to recover such charges that remain unpaid after becoming due and payable.

Absolute Majority Required

Recommendation 3 – Elected Members' Fees and Allowances for 2026-2027

In accordance with Section 5.98(1)(b) and Section 5.99 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 30 of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996,* Council adopts the following annual meeting attendance fees for Elected Members:

i. Shire President $36,112

ii. Councillors $26,931

In accordance with Section 5.98(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1995* the annual allowance for the Shire President be set at $73,435.

In accordance with Section 5.98A(1) of the *Local Government Act 1995* the annual allowance for the Deputy Shire President be set at $18,358.

In accordance with Section 5.99A of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 32 of the Local *Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* the annual allowance for ICT expenses for Elected Members be set at $3,100.

In accordance with Section 5.98(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 31 of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* the childcare/child minding reimbursement rate be set at actual cost per hour or $35 per hour, whichever is the lesser, for Elected Members requiring childcare services whilst undertaking their role as an Elected Member.

In accordance with Section 5.100(2)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1995* the per meeting attendance fee for an independent committee member be set at $1,093.

Absolute Majority Required

Recommendation 4 – Material Variance Reporting for 2026-2027

In accordance with Regulation 34(5) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996,* the level to be used in statements of financial activity in 2026-2027 for reporting material variances shall be 10% or $100,000, whichever is the greater.

Simple Majority Required

Council Decision **128/2026**

Moved **Cr R de Pledge**

Seconded **Cr T Fox**

That with respect to the adoption of the 2026-2027 Annual Budget, Council,

Recommendation 1 – Budget for 2026-2027

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 6.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995 and Part 3 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996,* Council adopt the Annual Budget as contained in Attachment 1 for the Shire of Ashburton for the 2026-2027 financial year which includes the following:

- **Statement of Comprehensive Income by Nature and Type.**
- **Statement of Cashflows.**
- **Rating Setting Statement.**
- **Notes to and Forming Part of the Budget**

For: **A Smith, A Sullivan, R de Pledge, K White, T Fox, L Rumble JP, K Day and C Rogers**

Against: **Nil**

Carried By Absolute Majority 8/0

Council Decision **129/2026**

Moved **Cr K Day**

Seconded **Cr T Fox**

That with respect to the adoption of the 2026-2027 Annual Budget, Council,

Recommendation 2 – General and Minimum Rates, Instalment payment arrangements, and interest

1. **For the purpose of yielding the deficiency disclosed by the Municipal Fund Budget adopted at Recommendation 1 above, Council pursuant to Sections 6.32, 6.33, 6.34 and 6.35 of the *Local Government Act 1995* impose the following differential general rates and minimum payments on Gross Rental and Unimproved Values.**

   A. General Rates

   - **Residential (GRV) $0.06771 rate in the dollar**
   - **Commercial / Industrial (GRV) $0.08921 rate in the dollar**
   - **Transient Worker Accommodation (GRV) $0.19946 rate in the dollar**
   - **Pastoral (UV) $0.19250 rate in the dollar**
   - **Non-Pastoral (UV) $0.37725 rate in the dollar**

B. Minimum Payments

• **Residential and Community**	**(GRV)**	**$1,390**
• **Commercial and Industrial**	**(GRV)**	**$1,390**
• **Transient Worker Accommodation**	**(GRV)**	**$1,390**
• **Pastoral**	**(UV)**	**$1,390**
• **Non-Pastoral**	**(UV)**	**$1,390**

2. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 64(2) of the *Local* Government *(Financial Management) Regulations 1996,* Council nominates the following due dates for the payment in full by instalments:

Option 1 (Full Payment)

Full amount of rates and charges including arrears, to be paid on or before 11 September 2026 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rates notice whichever is the later.

Option 2 (Two Instalments)

- **First instalment to be made on or before 11 September 2026 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rate notice whichever is later, including all arrears and half the current rates and service charges; and**
- **Second instalment to be made on or before 11 January 2027, or 2 months after the due date of the first instalment, whichever is later.**

Option 3 (Four Instalments)

- **First instalment to be made on or before 11 September 2026 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rate notice, whichever is later, including all arrears and a quarter of the current rates and service charges;**
- **Second instalment to be made on or before 10 November 2026, or 2 months after the due date of the first instalment, whichever is later;**
- **Third instalment to be made on or before 11 January 2027, or 2 months after the due date of the second instalment, whichever is later; and**
- **Fourth instalment to be made on or before 12 March 2027, or 2 months after the due date of the third instalment, whichever is later.**

3. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995,* and Regulation 67 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996,* Council adopts an instalment administration charge where the owner has elected to pay rates (and service charges) through an instalment option of $17.00 for each instalment after the initial instalment is paid.

4. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 68 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996,* Council adopts an interest rate of 5.5% where the owner has elected to pay rates and service charges through an instalment option.

5. 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,* Council adopts an interest rate of 11% for rates and service charges, and costs of proceedings to recover such charges that remain unpaid after becoming due and payable.

Absolute Majority Required

For: **A Smith, A Sullivan, R de Pledge, K White, T Fox, L Rumble JP, K Day and C Rogers**

Against: **Nil**

Carried By Absolute Majority 8/0

Council Decision **130/2026**

Moved **Cr K Day**

Seconded **Cr A Sullivan**

That with respect to the adoption of the 2026-2027 Annual Budget, Council,

Recommendation 3 – Elected Members' Fees and Allowances for 2026-2027

In accordance with Section 5.98(1)(b) and Section 5.99 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 30 of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996,* Council adopts the following annual meeting attendance fees for Elected Members:

- **i. Shire President $36,112**
- **ii. Councillors $26,931**

In accordance with Section 5.98(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1995* the annual allowance for the Shire President be set at $73,435.

In accordance with Section 5.98A(1) of the *Local Government Act 1995* the annual allowance for the Deputy Shire President be set at $18,358.

In accordance with Section 5.99A of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 32 of the Local *Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* the annual allowance for ICT expenses for Elected Members be set at $3,100.

In accordance with Section 5.98(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 31 of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* the childcare/child minding reimbursement rate be set at actual cost per hour or $35 per hour, whichever is the lesser, for Elected Members requiring childcare services whilst undertaking their role as an Elected Member.

In accordance with Section 5.100(2)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1995* the per meeting attendance fee for an independent committee member be set at $1,093.

Absolute Majority Required

For: **A Smith, A Sullivan, R de Pledge, K White, T Fox, L Rumble JP, K Day and C Rogers**

Against: **Nil**

Carried By Absolute Majority 8/0

Council Decision **131/2026**

Moved **Cr T Fox**

Seconded **Cr L Rumble JP**

That with respect to the adoption of the 2026-2027 Annual Budget, Council,

Recommendation 4 – Material Variance Reporting for 2026-2027

In accordance with Regulation 34(5) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996,* the level to be used in statements of financial activity in 2026-2027 for reporting material variances shall be 10% or $100,000, whichever is the greater.

Simple Majority Required

For: **A Smith, A Sullivan, R de Pledge, K White, T Fox, L Rumble JP, K Day and C Rogers**

Against: **Nil**

Carried 8/0

8 Next Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at 1:00pm on Tuesday 18 August 2026 at Council Chambers, Onslow Shire Complex, Second Avenue, Onslow.

9 Closure Of Meeting

There being no further business, the Presiding Member closed the meeting at 6:45pm.