

2017/2018—A time to consolidate and review

The Shire of Exmouth will focus on consolidation and review in the 2017/18 financial year under the stewardship of a new Council, Chief Executive Officer and management team.

Endorsing the 2017/18 budget at August's Council meeting, Shire of Exmouth Commissioner Ian Fletcher said that in the coming financial year the Shire would continue to focus on governance and review of the Integrated Strategic Planning framework.

"The Integrated Strategic Planning process will provide the framework for Council priorities and Shire operations over the next 10 years," he said.

"In developing this framework the community will be asked to define its vision, aspirations and priorities for the Exmouth region through the Strategic Community Plan," he said.

"This document will guide Council's decision making and the Shire's operations for the next 10 years. This is the perfect opportunity to draw a line in the sand and move forward with clear goals to achieve agreed outcomes for the community."

Commissioner Fletcher also noted that despite absorbing the operation of the \$34.5 million Ningaloo Centre, the 2017/18 budget had minimal increases in fees and charges and no rate increase.

"This is a significant achievement given the operation of the Centre is expected operational costs of the Centre are in excess of \$400,000 per annum," he said.

"There is still more work to be done but we should acknowledge this as a positive outcome for the community."

Understanding your 2017/18 rates

Why do we pay rates?

Rates are one of the sources of revenue the Shire uses to fund the community's services and infrastructure. Council rates are supplemented by State and Federal Government grants and fees and charges to cover the cost of supporting the local community. The Shire collects rates to fund a wide range of services and facilities including the maintenance recreational facilities, roads and footpaths, waste management, parks and sports grounds, beaches, boat ramps, the marina, the library and the airport and heliport.

How are rates calculated?

To calculate how much each ratepayer is required to contribute, Council first determines how much rate income is required to fund the Shire. This amount is divided by the total value of all the properties in the Shire of Exmouth to determine the Rate in the Dollar (RID). Council then calculates rates for each property by multiplying the RID by either the property's Gross Rental Value (GRV) or Unimproved Value (UV). If the total calculation equates to less than Council's minimum rate, the minimum rate applies.

The minimum rate ensures all residents equitably share in the maintenance of Shire services and infrastructure.

Property Valuations

Property valuations are provided by the State's Valuer General for two types of values; Gross Rental Value (GRV) and Unimproved Value (UV). GRV's are revalued as part of a four year revaluation cycle, where UV's are set annually. The next revaluation is due to occur in 2018/19.

2017/18 Rates in the Dollar

This year Council adopted its 2017/18 budget at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 22 August 2017 and resolved the following rates in the dollar to be applied to properties in the Shire of Exmouth. The rates in the dollar remain the same as last year.

Rate Category	Rate in the Dollar \$	Minimum Rate \$
GRV - General	0.0715	\$900
GRV - Marina Developed	0.0983	\$900
GRV - Holiday Homes	0.1011	\$900
GRV - Vacant Land	0.1205	\$900
UV - Mining	0.1552	\$284
UV - Rural	0.0776	\$900
GRV—Specified Area Rate	0.0130	\$66

Concessions

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 22 August 2017, Council also resolved to apply a concession for the properties with a combination of zones and characteristics as follows:

Rate Category	Reduction in Rate in the Dollar \$	Reduction to Minimum Rate \$
GRV - General Developed properties zoned <i>Residential</i> and predominantly used for residential purposes	0.0016	
GRV - General Developed properties zoned <i>Special Rural</i>	0.0147	
GRV - General Developed properties zoned <i>Residential Development</i> and used for residential purposes	0.0101	
GRV - Vacant Land Properties zoned <i>Industrial, Light Industrial, Mixed Use, Strategic Industrial, Tourist, Town Centre & Composite Development</i>	0.0096	
GRV - Vacant Land Vacant properties zoned <i>Special Rural</i>	0.0490	
GRV - Vacant Land Vacant properties zoned <i>Residential Development</i>		\$470
GRV - Vacant Land Vacant properties zoned <i>Residential</i>	0.0472	
GRV - Vacant Land Vacant properties zoned <i>Marina</i>	0.0015	
GRV - Holiday Homes properties zoned <i>Residential</i> that have received Town Planning approval to operate as a Holiday Home	0.0312	
GRV - Holiday Homes properties zoned <i>Marina</i> that have received Town Planning approval to operate as a Holiday Home	0.0009	
UV—Rural Properties zoned <i>Rural</i> and operate under a Pastoral Lease	0.0194	

Which rate code applies to me?

A number of different rate codes apply to properties within the Shire of Exmouth based on the zoning or land use of each property. The zoning, objects and reasons for each of the rate codes are detailed in the below table.

Rate Category	Zoning, Objects and Reasons
GRV – General (Approx. 64% of rate requirements of Council)	Properties zoned Industrial, Light Industrial, Mixed Use, Strategic Industrial, Tourist, Town Centre, Composite Development, Residential, Residential Development & Special Rural. The rate is the base rate by which all other GRV rated properties are assessed.
GRV - Marina Developed (Approx. 8% of rate requirements of Council)	Developed properties zoned Marina. The rate reflects additional revenue required to fund the higher level of amenities and services provided to this area including landscaping, road sweeping, maintenance of street furniture, canal drainage and foot-bridge lighting.
GRV - Holiday Homes (Approx. 5% of rate requirements of Council)	Residential properties that have received Planning approval to operate as a short term holiday home. The rate reflects the costs associated with holiday use properties including noise complaints, ranger call outs and contributions toward tourism infrastructure maintenance.
GRV - Vacant Land (Approx. 17% of rate requirements of Council)	Vacant properties zoned Industrial, Light Industrial, Mixed Use, Strategic Industrial, Tourist, Town Centre, Composite Development, Special Rural, Marina Residential & Residential Development. The rate reflects the costs associated with vacant land including firebreaks, street network upgrades, roadside sweeping, CBD car parking, landscaping, dust control, drainage, footbridge lighting, street furniture and other amenities. It also includes the development of tourist related services and infrastructure.
UV – Mining (Approx. 2% of rate requirements of Council)	Properties used for mining, exploration or prospecting purposes. The rate is to raise revenue to fund additional costs to Council due to frequent heavy vehicle use of extensive lengths of Shire roads.

Rate Codes continued...

UV – Rural (Approx. 1% of rate requirements of Council)	Properties zoned Pastoral. The rate is the base rate by which all other UV rated properties are assessed. These properties are large extensive parcels of land with little commercial activity.
GRV—Specified Area Rate	The Specified Area Rate applies to canal frontage Marina properties in the Exmouth Marina Precinct. Rates from this category fund the annual water monitoring costs, including periodic dredging, clearing and maintenance of canal waterways.

Annual rubbish charges

- Residential—\$362 for the weekly removal of each 240L bin
- Residential—\$253.75 for the weekly removal of each 120L bin
- Commercial \$350 for the weekly removal of each 240L bin

Rates and service charges by instalments

The Local Government Act 1995 (s.6.45) provides for rates and charges to be paid by instalments. An additional charge of \$14.50 has been levied for payment of each instalment notice. The charge is made to recover additional administration costs incurred by extended terms. A 5.5% instalment interest rate will also apply (simple interest calculated from the date the first instalment is due). Council has resolved the following instalment options.

Option 1 (Full Payment)	Option 2 (2 Instalments)	Option 3 (4 Instalments)
Due 29/09/2017	Due 29/09/2017	Due 29/09/2017
	Due 29/11/2017	Due 29/11/2017
		Due 29/01/2018
		Due 29/03/2018

Late payment interest penalty

A penalty interest rate of 11% per annum, calculated daily, will apply to rate charges where no payment has been made by the due date of 29/09/2017.

Rates NOT paid by the due date

If your rates are outstanding after the due date and no rates instalment option has been selected, the outstanding rates will be referred to the Shire’s Debt Collector.

Objections to valuations

If you wish to object to the valuation shown on your rate notice, please contact the Valuer General’s Office on (08) 9273 7373 or visit www.landgate.wa.gov.au to obtain an objection form. Objections must be lodged within sixty (60) days from the date of your rates notice. **Rates must be paid by the due date irrespective of any objection that is lodged. Council will refund any over-paid rates should the Valuer General reduce your valuation.**

Shire loans

The principal outstanding on loans held by the Shire as at 30 June 2017 was \$2,616,356.

Methods of Payment

You can pay your Shire rates in the following ways:

In Person	Cash, Cheque or Credit Card will be accepted at the Shire’s Administration Office, 22 Maidstone Crescent, Exmouth
BPay	The BPay Biller Code and Reference Number are located on the bottom of your rates notice
Mail	Send a cheque or complete the credit card section on your rates notice and return to Shire of Exmouth, PO Box 21 Exmouth WA 6707
Phone	For credit card payments by phone please call (08) 9949 3000
Direct Deposit	Shire of Exmouth BSB: 036 180 ACC: 000060 Reference: Your Assessment No.

Rate payments are due no later than 4.30pm on the due dates.



Council adopts 2017/18 Budget

The Shire of Exmouth has formally adopted the 2017/18 budget. The budget includes a \$7.2m capital expenditure program, \$3.8m in asset acquirement and \$3.4m on upgrades and asset replacements.

More than \$2.1m will be spent on road upgrades in this financial year including:

- \$1.4m improvements to Murat Road including widening, intersection redesign, lighting and flood mitigation and a shared bike/pedestrian path;
- \$268,000 to complete work on the shoulders and edges of Yardie Creek Road

The Bundegi boat ramp will get upgrades to the fender system and rust treatment at a cost of \$155,980.

Ningaloo Centre

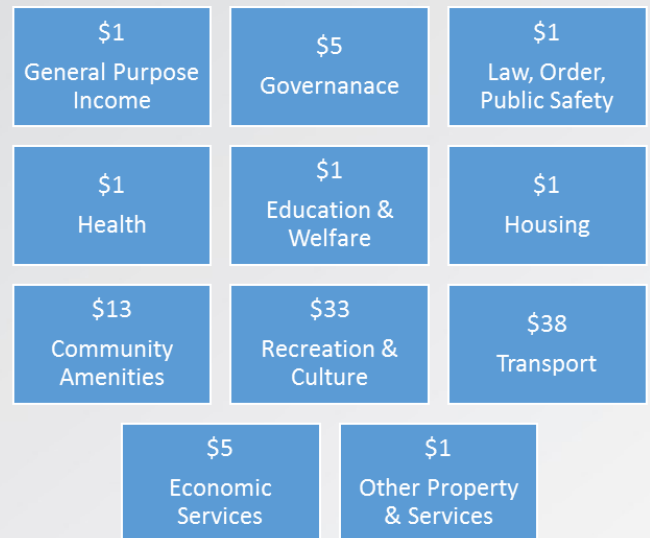
Construction of the \$34.5m Ningaloo Centre will be completed by September 2017. Just over \$3.1m has been allocated to the project in the 2017/18 budget, with all of that cost coming from grants revenue. The Ningaloo Centre will provide new community facilities including a new library and tourist information centre, community centre, meeting and function rooms and a café. Education facilities include research facilities being leased by the University of Western Australia’s Oceans Institute, Central Regional TAFE and interpretive and historical displays.

Budget Financial Highlights

- Rate Setting Statement shows an estimated surplus at 30 June 2018 of \$4,189.
- Capital Expenditure amounts to \$7.2m (excluding loan repayments)
- Net transfer from reserves during 2017/18 will be \$1m, leaving a balance in the reserve accounts of \$5m
- Non Operating Grants anticipated during 2017/18 of \$5.3m
- Existing borrowings will require principal and interest repayments of \$349,808.
- No new loans are proposed for 2017/18.

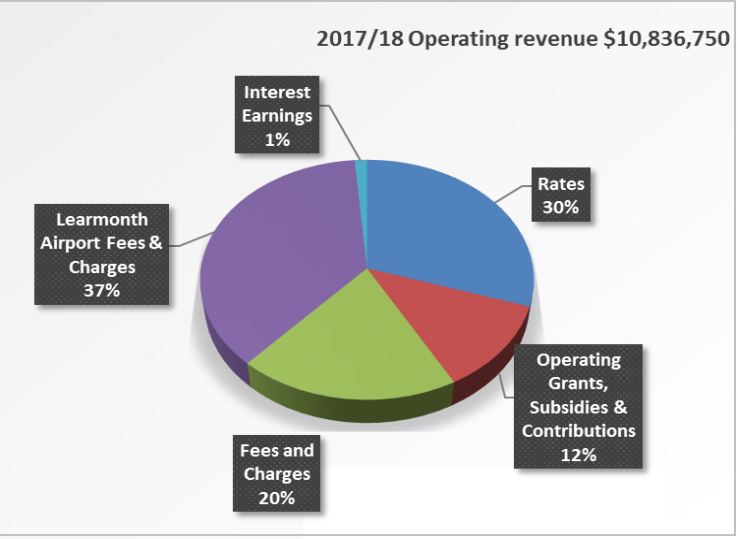
Council Expenditure

For every \$100 received in revenue in 2017/18, Council will spend:



Funding at a glance

Council’s biggest revenue source for the last financial year came from fees and charges at Learmonth Airport and this year it is expected to account for 37% of operating revenue. Rates will make up 30% of operating revenue.



Newsletter delivery information

This newsletter is distributed to all PO Boxes in Exmouth, and is available for pick-up at the post office, shire offices and the Public Library. This newsletter can also be emailed electronically. To register for electronic delivery email: cdo@exmouth.wa.gov.au