

# SHIRE OF EXMOUTH BUDGET NEWS



## Budget Overview from the Shire President

The Shire of Exmouth is proud to present the 2025/26 Annual Budget.

This year the budget is focusing on opening of the Exmouth Recycling Centre, improvements to roads, infrastructure, and planning.

This budget has been created against the Strategic Community Plan 2023-2033 and Corporate Business Plan 2023-2033 with our communities' values and expectations at the forefront.

Rising costs have impacted households, businesses, and the community over the past 12 months. With these challenges in mind, the Shire has worked hard to build a balanced and equitable budget whilst striving to meet community expectations.

Doing so has meant focusing on balance between maintaining current infrastructure whilst also planning for the future of the town.

Balancing the budget whilst maintaining assets, rising maintenance costs, and acting on residents feedback to the previous year's budget has been challenging and required extensive deliberation and effort. We are confident that this budget reflects thoughtful management of funds for the future whilst still meeting current needs and community feedback.

The Shire has developed a new Rating Strategy to distribute the rate burden more equitably in our community. Following consultation on the proposed rating strategy, the Annual Budget reflects the attempt to lower the burden on rate payers to cover costs whilst looking towards the future needs of our town.

-SHIRE PRESIDENT MATT NIIKKULA

### In this newsletter you can expect:

Revenue and  
expenditure

Budget at a  
glance

Budget  
highlights

New rating  
strategy

GRV explained

Enrol to vote



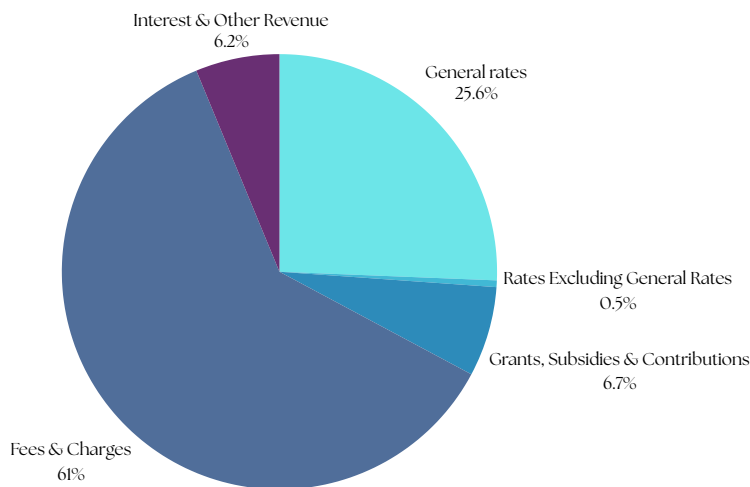
## Revenue & Expenditure

The Shire is working hard to ensure that the Annual Budget continues to provide essential services and infrastructure for our town, while striving for a financially secure future for Exmouth. The 2025/26 Annual Budget has a total revenue of \$23 million. \$1.5 million of which will be sourced from Grants, Subsidies and Contributions with an addition of \$13.8 million from Fees & Charges.

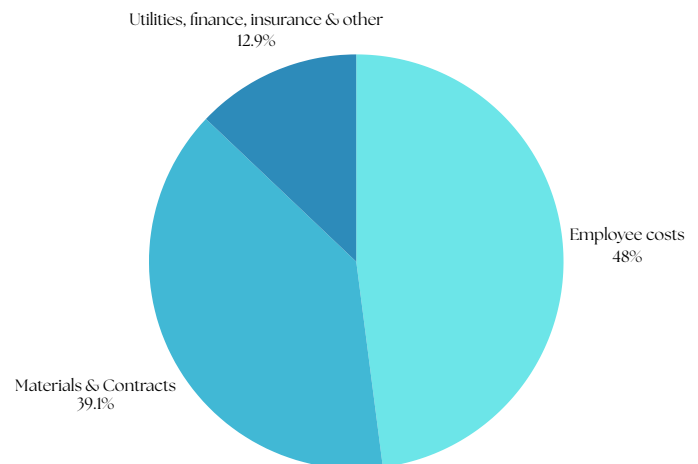
Rate revenue makes up less than 30% of total revenue in this budget.

Council employee costs are 48% of the budget, and materials and contracts are 39%. Council is working diligently towards attracting and retaining a stable workforce to deliver on projects and service expectations.

### Operating Revenue



### Operating Expenditure



## Budget at a Glance

Budget surplus .....	Nil	Capital Grants .....	\$1,892,872
Capital Expenditure .....	\$6,960,000	Loan Repayments .....	\$393,087
Transfer from Reserves .....	\$4,096,699	New Borrowings.....	Nil
Transfer to Reserves .....	\$5,460,441		
Operating Grants .....	\$1,521,023		



# Budget Highlights



## Recyling Centre

The Exmouth Recycling Centre is due to open in the 2025/26 Financial Year. Community feedback received during development of the Strategic Community Plan highlighted the need for improved sustainability and action on our environmental footprint. By opening the Recycling Centre, we aim to create action in our promise to become a more sustainable town.



## Combating Illegal Camping

The Shire has taken significant action to reduce the impacts of illegal camping in 2024/25 and the annual budget 2025/26 remains committed to protecting the regions natural assets. The campaign will continue to be implemented through joint patrols, increased signage and the creation of an Economic Development and Tourism Strategy.



## Roads and Infrastructure

The Shire is continuing to improve the quality and safety of roads, and streetscapes. \$2,466,983 is budgeted towards capital works with \$1,734,423 received from grants. Two Road Safety Condition Reports will ensure town roads are up to standard. Works locations will include the continuation of town road and kerbing renewals, works on Murat Road, Yardie Creek Road, and the Truscott/Murat shared path. A further \$333,000 has been allocated to Lefroy and Kennedy Street carparks, town drainage improvements and marina bridge lighting.



## Planning

The Shire recognises the importance of improving planning and documentation for future development. This year, multiple planning and strategic documents will be developed to ensure future improvements are accounted for and held to the best standard of practice. Some highlights include: Town Planning Scheme, Reconciliation Action Plan, Communications Strategy Review, Public Health Plan, Asset Management Plan, Sports Precinct Master Plan and an ERP & Records Keeping system upgrade to improve documentation management and workflow efficiency.



## Other Projects

- Talanjee Oval light replacements ..... \$ 165,000
- EDHS hard courts light upgrade .....\$20,000
- Library - sensory seating ..... \$20,000
- Wobiri toilet block renewal..... \$45,500
- Qualing Scarp fencing..... \$115,000
- Waste Water Treatment Plant renewals .....\$40,000
- Website & Brand development ..... \$140,000
- ICT Hardware & Operational & Infrastructure services upgrade....\$220,000
- Bundegi Boat Ramp Renewal Assessment.....\$30,000
- Marina Bridge Lighting ..... \$63,000



## New Rating Strategy: What you need to know

Rates contribute directly to town infrastructure and services for the Exmouth community. With an expected \$5.9 million of the expected revenue coming from rates in the 2025/26 Annual Budget. In total, rates will make up less than 30% of revenue in the budget.

Acknowledging the burden of rates increasing in 2024/25 Council has adopted a new rating strategy with our residents in mind to more equitably distribute the rates burden amongst different property uses. The new rating strategy was endorsed by Council at the June Ordinary Council Meeting.

An animated video was published to communicate the changes to rating categories to rate payers.

The animated video can be watched [here](https://bit.ly/3HIVXwA).  
<https://bit.ly/3HIVXwA>

Individual letters were sent to rate payers with their property category enclosed. Submissions from electors and ratepayers on the proposed differential rates and minimum payments were invited.

Council further acknowledges the financial burden on rate payers and has again agreed to waive the administration charge and instalment interest charge for rate payers electing to pay via one of the available instalment methods.

With due consideration to public submissions, Council adopted the 2025/26 budget at the July 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting with significant amendments to rate revenue.

Council resolved the following rates in the dollar to be applied to properties in the Shire of Exmouth:

<b>Rate Category</b>	<b>Rate in the \$</b>	<b>Minimum Payment \$</b>
<b>GRV Residential</b>	<b>0.0735</b>	<b>1500</b>
<b>GRV Business/Other</b>	<b>0.0882</b>	<b>1500</b>
<b>GRV Accommodation General</b>	<b>0.1004</b>	<b>1500</b>
<b>GRV Holiday Homes /Accommodation Marina</b>	<b>0.1103</b>	<b>1500</b>
<b>GRV Vacant Land</b>	<b>0.1470</b>	<b>1500</b>
<b>UV Rural</b>	<b>0.1071</b>	<b>1500</b>
<b>UV Mining</b>	<b>0.2142</b>	<b>490</b>
<b>UV Aquaculture</b>	<b>0.1377</b>	<b>490</b>
<b>GRV Specified Area Rate</b>	<b>0.0170</b>	<b>N/A</b>

# THE 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORDINARY ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER 2025.



## Step up for your community and become a Council member

In Western Australia, Councilors are elected for terms of four years, with elections held every two years for half of the council.

Becoming an Council member is an opportunity to:

- Be a voice for your community
- Influence decisions that shape local life
- Help guide the decision that shape Exmouth's future

Five vacancies will be available this Local Election. Be the change you wish to see and take the leap.

Enrol, nominate and lead by representing your community's voice.

Nominations open **28 August 2025** and close **4 September 2025 at 4:00pm.**

Learn more:

<https://www.exmouth.wa.gov.au/council/your-council/local-government-elections.aspx>

## ENROL TO VOTE

Check, update or enrol to vote by 5pm 22 August 2025, or call the Western Australian Electoral Commission on 08 9214 0400 or visit [elections.wa.gov.au](https://elections.wa.gov.au)

## WHO CAN VOTE

### Residents

All residents in the Shire of Exmouth who are enrolled on the State electoral roll are automatically enrolled on the corresponding local government roll. You must make sure you are correctly enrolled, and your details are up to date by 5pm 22 August 2025 to vote in the local government elections.

### Owners and Occupiers

People who own or occupy rateable property in the Shire of Exmouth, can apply to their local government to be included on the roll as an owner/occupier, as long as they are eligible electors. Please contact us on 08 9949 3000 to obtain the required application form. Any applications must be received by 5pm 22 August 2025.

## ANNUAL BUDGET 2025/26

The official Annual Budget 2025/26 can be found here:

<https://www.exmouth.wa.gov.au/documents/budget-fees-and-charges>

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Stay up to date and informed on Council meetings scheduled for 2025 here:

<https://www.exmouth.wa.gov.au/council-meetings/>





**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORDINARY ELECTION  
CLOSE OF ENROLMENTS  
Shire of Exmouth  
ROLL CLOSE: 5:00 PM FRIDAY, 22 AUGUST 2025**

You may be eligible to be enrolled to vote in the local government elections on 18 October 2025 if you live in or are an owner or occupier of rateable property in the Shire of Exmouth.

**Residents**

You are automatically enrolled to vote if you are on the State Electoral Roll as at 5:00 PM Friday, 22 August 2025. If you are not already on the State Electoral Roll and meet the eligibility criteria, or if you have changed address recently, you must complete an enrolment form.

**Enrolment Forms**

You can enrol or update your details online, or download an enrolment form, via the Western Australian Electoral Commission website ([www.elections.wa.gov.au/enrol](http://www.elections.wa.gov.au/enrol)). Forms are also available from the Australian Electoral Commission ([www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au)). Enrolments and updates must be completed and received by 5:00 PM Friday, 22 August 2025.

**Non-Resident Owners and Occupiers**

If you are a non-resident owner or occupier of rateable property in the Shire of Exmouth and are on the State or Commonwealth Electoral Roll, you are eligible to enrol to vote. Owners of land who were on the last Local Government roll continue to retain that status until they cease to own the rateable property to which the enrolment relates. Occupiers do not have continuous enrolment and should contact the Shire of Exmouth to confirm their enrolment status. To be eligible to enrol as an occupier, you will need to have a right of continuous occupation under a lease, tenancy agreement or other legal instrument for at least the next three months following the date of the application to enrol and have paid rent for at least the prescribed amount.

**Joint Owners and Occupiers**

If a rateable property is owner occupied by more than two people, a majority of the owners/occupiers may nominate two persons from amongst themselves who are on either the State or Commonwealth Electoral Roll, to enrol as owner/occupier electors.

**Corporations**

A body corporate that owns or occupies rateable property may nominate two people who are officers of the body corporate that are on either the State or Commonwealth Electoral Roll to enrol as owner/occupier electors.

**Enrolment Forms – Non-Resident Owners and Occupiers Only**

Enrolment forms can be obtained from local governments and must be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer by 5:00 PM Friday, 22 August 2025. Further information can be obtained from the Shire of Exmouth.

**DENNIS O'REILLY**  
ACTING ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER  
13 63 06

