

2025/26

Rates Information Pack

Message from the Shire President

On behalf of the Council for the Shire of Northam, I am pleased to present the 2025/26 budget to our community.

This year, our focus remains on improving the liveability of our community, investing in critical infrastructure, and ensuring that our programs reflect the growing needs of our residents. The Shire's budget is designed to support our vibrant community by funding essential services such as safe roads, waste management, community safety, parks, and more, while maintaining a strong commitment to keeping rates affordable.

For the 2025/26 financial year, an average increase of 3.5% to the overall rates revenue yield will be applied to support the Shire's long-term financial sustainability while minimising the impact on the cost of living for our community.

Income from rates makes up approximately 50% of the operating budget, with the remaining revenue coming from government grants, and fees and charges.

In 2025/26 we will continue to invest in our infrastructure. Our capital works program will deliver projects such as:

- Roads, Drainage and Footpaths – approximately \$4.4M program, with additional \$2M carry-forwards including:
 - Road re-sheeting program - \$1.7M
 - Drainage improvements - \$590K
- Bakers Hill RV overnight stay facility - \$129K
- Henry Street Recreation Precinct upgrades - \$185K
- Northam CBD upgrades - \$350K
- Northam Airfield upgrades - \$715K

To view the 2025/26 Budget in detail, please visit the Shire's website, www.northam.wa.gov.au.

Finally, I would like to thank the Council Members, staff and volunteers across the Shire of Northam for their continued contribution to our great community.

Cr Chris Antonio
Shire President

Shire of Northam

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Rates and Minimum Charges

How are my rates calculated?

The Shire of Northam will apply differential rates and minimum payments for the 2025/26 financial year as summarised in the following table:

Rating	Category	Rate in the Dollar (\$)	Minimum Rates (\$)
GRV	Residential	0.113500	1,159.00
GRV	Townsites Commercial, Industrial, Community	0.121850	1,159.00
UV	Agricultural Local	0.004350	1,159.00
UV	Agricultural Regional	0.004000	1,114.00
UV	Rural Small Holdings	0.007250	1,159.00

Property values are determined by the Valuer General's Office (Landgate) and are based on either Gross Rental Value (GRV) or Unimproved Value (UV). Landgate reassess valuations for GRV properties every five years (with last revaluation effective 1 July 2022), and UV properties every year (with last revaluation effective 1 July 2025).

Rates are calculated by multiplying either the Gross Rental Value (GRV) or Unimproved Value (UV) by the rate in the dollar adopted by Council for your property's rating category. Rates are subject to a minimum payment, which are set as a minimum contribution each ratepayer makes towards the cost of providing facilities and services to the community.

Objections to valuations

If you have a query regarding your property valuation or wish to object to a valuation given by the Valuer General's Office, please visit Landgate's website www.landgate.wa.gov.au, or alternatively call Landgate Customer Service on (08) 9273 7373. Please note that Rates must be paid as assessed, by the due date, irrespective of any objection being lodged.

How can I pay my rates?

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

Option One | Payment IN FULL by **11 September 2025**

Option Two | Payment via TWO INSTALMENTS

To qualify for instalments, the exact amount shown at Option 2 on your Rates Notice must be received in one whole payment by **11 September 2025** with Second instalment due **14 January 2026**

Option Three | Payment via FOUR INSTALMENTS

To qualify for instalments, the exact amount shown at Option 3 on your Rates Notice must be received in one whole payment by **11 September 2025**

- Second instalment due **12 November 2025**
- Third instalment due **14 January 2026**
- Fourth instalment due **18 March 2026**

Difficulty paying your rates?

If you are experiencing difficulty paying your rates by the specified due date or are currently experiencing financial hardship, please contact the Shire's Rates Officer via email records@northam.wa.gov.au or call (08) 9622 6100 to discuss your options.

Requests for payment arrangements must be notified to the Shire's Rates Officer prior to the due date specified on your Rates Notice. Please be aware that the following conditions apply:

- Interest charged at the rate of 11% per annum on the rates and on ESL charges outstanding after the due date for payment and will continue to accrue daily until settled IN FULL.
- Approved payment arrangements will be confirmed by letter.

Pensioner and Senior Concessions

If you are a Pensioner or Senior, you may be able to apply for a rebate on your Shire Rates and Emergency Services Levy. Please note that waste service charges and pool inspection fees are not subject to a concession.

Eligible pensioners are entitled to claim a rebate of 50% of the current year's rates, up to a maximum of \$750 or may apply to defer those rates. Seniors who meet the eligibility criteria are entitled to claim a rebate of 25% of the current year's rates, up to a maximum of \$100.

Concessions apply after eligible ratepayers have registered their entitlement with the Water Corporation through their website www.watercorporation.com.au or by calling 1300 659 951.

Emergency Services Levy

The Emergency Services Levy is a compulsory charge for all property owners and is determined by the State Government and collected by the Shire of Northam. For further information about the Emergency Services Levy, visit the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) website: www.dfes.wa.gov.au/emergency-services-levy.





Waste Facilities and Service Charges

Waste Facilities

The Shire of Northam operates two waste management facilities. Our main facility at Old Quarry Road, Northam is home to the Northam Reuse-Store, waste transfer station, solid and liquid waste facilities. The Inkpen Road waste management facility at Copley is a small rural landfill with limited recycling options. Residents are entitled to free annual Waste Facility Passes as part of their waste service charges.

Waste Services Charges

If you receive a standard kerbside collection service, you will be charged an annual general waste and recycling collection fee totalling \$327.00 (\$306.00 for pensioners), which includes:

- Weekly general waste kerbside collection service
- Fortnightly recycling kerbside collection service
- Unlimited access to the Shire's waste management facilities for disposal of recyclables, including e-waste, green waste and scrap metal
- Ten entries to dispose of accepted general waste, including 2 x mattresses per year
- 1 x skip bin per year (in line with rates). Additional skip bins are available through a contractor at an extra fee
- Maintenance of existing waste management facilities
- Community waste services
- Waste education programmes.

If you reside outside the kerbside collection area, you will be charged an annual fee of \$162.00 to access the Shire's waste facilities and services, which includes:

- Unlimited access to the Shire's waste management facilities for disposal of recyclables, including e-waste, green waste and scrap metal
- Twenty-six entries to dispose of accepted general waste, including 2 x mattresses per year
- 1 x skip bin per year (in line with rates). Additional skip bins are available through a contractor at an extra fee
- Maintenance of existing waste management facilities
- Community waste services
- Waste education programmes.

Residents who do not pay the relevant waste services charges will not be able to access the Shire's waste services and will be charged as commercial customers when visiting either waste facility.

Waste Facility Passes will be available from the gatehouse at either Waste Management Facility from 1 September 2025. Proof of property ownership and identification are required to obtain your pass. REPLACEMENTS can be obtained from either gatehouse or the Shire Administration Office.

For more information, please visit the Environment & Waste section on the Shire's website www.northam.wa.gov.au.