



# Agenda

## Ordinary Meeting of Council

Wednesday 25 June 2025 6:00 pm



## **Notice of an Ordinary Meeting of Council**

Elected Members

An Ordinary Meeting of Council of the City of Fremantle will be held on **Wednesday 25 June 2025** in the Council Chamber (Bibbool Room) at the Walyalup Civic Centre, located at 151 High Street, Fremantle commencing at 6:00 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glen Dougall".

Glen Dougall  
**Chief Executive Officer**

18 June 2025



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## **Official opening, welcome and acknowledgement**

Ngala kaaditj Whadjuk moort keyen kaadak nidja Walyalup boodja wer djinang Whadjuk kaaditjin wer nyiting boola yeye.

We acknowledge the Whadjuk people as the traditional owners of the greater Fremantle/Walyalup area and we recognise that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still important today.

## **Attendance, apologies and leave of absence**

### **Apologies**

There are no previously received apologies.

### **Leave of absence**

There are no previously received leave of absence.

### **Applications for leave of absence**

Elected members may request leave of absence.

### **Disclosures of interest by members**

Elected members must disclose any interests that may affect their decision-making. They may do this in a written notice given to the CEO or at the meeting.

### **Responses to previous public questions taken on notice**

There are no responses to public questions taken on notice at a previous meeting.

### **Public question time**

Members of the public have the opportunity to ask a question or make a statement at council and committee meetings during public question time. Further guidance on public question time can be viewed [here](#), or upon entering the meeting.



## **Petitions**

Petitions may be tabled at the meeting with agreement of the presiding member.

## **Deputations**

A deputation may be made to the meeting in accordance with the City of Fremantle Meeting Procedures Policy.

## **Presentations**

Elected members and members of the public may make presentations to the meeting in accordance with the City of Fremantle Meeting Procedures Policy.

## **Confirmation of minutes**

### **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

**Council confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council dated 11 June 2025.**

## **Elected member communication**

Elected members may ask questions or make personal explanations on matters not included on the agenda.



## **Reports and recommendations from officers**

### **Planning reports**

Nil.



## Strategic and general reports

### **C2506-10 REVIEW OF THE PARKING LOCAL LAW 2021 AND THE PREVENTION AND ABATEMENT OF SAND DRIFT LOCAL LAW 2002**

<b>Meeting date:</b>	25 June 2025
<b>Responsible officer:</b>	Manager Governance
<b>Voting requirements:</b>	Absolute Majority Required
<b>Attachments:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Engagement Survey</li><li>2. Unchanged City of Fremantle Parking Local Law 2021</li><li>3. Unchanged City of Fremantle Prevention and Abatement of Sand Drift Local Law 2002</li></ol>

#### **SUMMARY**

**With commencement of new provisions relating to Local Laws within the *Local Government Amendment Act 2024*, officers have commenced a holistic review of all City of Fremantle Local Laws, to identify whether they needed to be amended, repealed, or remain unchanged. Internal consultation occurred across departments to ensure all aspects of the existing local laws were considered in relation to their application, effectiveness, lawfulness, and need.**

**At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 12 March 2025 (C2503-6), Council resolved to adopt a review schedule of the City of Fremantle's local laws, with the Parking Local Law 2021 and Prevention and Abatement of Sand Drift Local Law 2002 to remain unchanged, subject to public submissions.**

**This report recommends that Council:**

- 1. Considers the submission received during the consultation period for the unchanged Parking Local Law 2021 and the Prevention and Abatement of Sand Drift Local Law 2002, as provided in Attachment 1; and**
- 2. Approves that the Parking Local Law 2021, provided in Attachment 2, and the Prevention and Abatement of Sand Drift Local Law 2002, provided in Attachment 3, remain unchanged.**



**BACKGROUND**

As part of the Local Government Reforms and commencement of provisions within the *Local Government Amendment Act 2024* following assent, the City of Fremantle is required to review any local laws that are either due or overdue for a review. This must be undertaken within a two-year period, prior to 7 December 2026, unless a review occurred within the last 8 years. If this review does not occur, the local laws that have not been reviewed within this timeframe they will automatically be repealed.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 12 March 2025 (C2503-6), Council resolved:

<b>Council:</b>	
<b>1. Accepts the City of Fremantle Local Law Review 2025 in accordance with section 3.16 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>, and adopts the following schedule:</b>	
<b>City of Fremantle Local Law</b>	<b>Review Timeframe</b>
<b>Activities in Thoroughfares and Public Places and Trading Local Law 2005</b>	<b>To be amended and brought back to Council within 3 months.</b>
<b>Local Government Model By-laws (Signs, Hoardings and Billposting), No. 13</b>	<b>To be repealed and brought back to Council within 3 months.</b>
<b>Short Stay Accommodation Local Law 2008</b>	<b>Review to be brought back to Council within 6 months.</b>
<b>Cat Management Local Law 2020</b>	<b>Review to be brought back to Council within 12 months.</b>
<b>Local Government Property Local Law 2002</b>	<b>Review to be brought back to Council within 12 months.</b>
<b>Health Local Laws 1997</b>	<b>Review to be brought back to Council within 18 months.</b>
<b>Alfresco Dining Local Law (No.2) 2014</b>	<b>Review to be brought back to Council within 18 months.</b>
<b>Local Laws Relating to Dogs 1998</b>	<b>Review to be brought back to Council before the end of 2025.</b>
<b>2. Endorse that the following local laws, as provided in Attachment 1 and 2, remain unchanged:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Parking Local Law 2021; and</b></li> <li>b. <b>Prevention and Abatement of Sand Drift Local Law 2002.</b></li> </ul>	
<b>3. Authorise local public notice be given of the Local Law review, in accordance with section 3.16 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>, and invite public submissions for a period of 6 weeks.</b>	
<b>4. Note that a report will be brought back to Council which considers the submissions made.</b>	



The Parking Local Law 2021 and the Prevention and Abatement of Sand Drift Local Law 2002 were advertised, unchanged, inviting public submission from 20 March 2025 to 16 May 2025. Officers have considered the submissions received, provided in Attachment 1, and have not suggested and further changes to the local laws.

In accordance with section 3.16 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, Council must determine, by absolute majority, whether it considers that the local law should be repealed, be amended or remain unchanged.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

All costs associated with a local law review, are included in the adopted budget.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Section 3.5 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) provides the power for local governments to make local laws to help perform their functions.

The recently amended section 3.16 of the Act requires that all local laws must be reviewed within a 15-year period after their commencement to determine if they should remain unchanged, be repealed, or amended. The 15-year period is taken to be from either when the local law commenced or when the last review of the local law was completed.

Section 3.12 of the Act prescribes the procedure for making local laws, which is the same procedure to amendment or repeal a local law.

### **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

This item is in keeping with the City of Fremantle's Strategic Community Plan 2024 – 2034:

#### **Corporate - Lead and empower the organisation to deliver the vision of 'strong reputation, stronger future'**

- Enable the City to maintain legislative compliance and accountability for organisational decision making.

### **CONSULTATION**

Officers published a notice of the local law review, including the approved schedule and the unchanged City of Fremantle Parking Local Law 2021 and Prevention and Abatement of Sand Drift Local Law 2002, in the Fremantle Herald on Saturday 22 March 2025, on the City's My Say website from 20 March 2025 to



16 May 2025, and on the City’s official website under Public Notices and Local Laws.

Public submissions were invited for both proposed unchanged local laws, and for the local law review in general.

One submission was received via the My Say survey, provided in Attachment 1. The resident made a request for more parking bays in front of their grouped/multiple dwellings, which was sent to relevant Officer’s to respond to, and quired how the Prevention and Abatement of Sand Drift Local Law 2002 was applied to residential verges, which Officers responded to as follows:

*The Prevention and Abatement of Sand Drift Local Law 2002 does not expressly exclude verges or local government land, however verges are generally held to be the responsibility of the adjoining landowner (rather than the local government) particularly where activities of the occupier (such as parking) are creating a genuine sand / dust nuisance.*

#### **OFFICER COMMENT**

The City of Fremantle Parking Local Law 2021 was last reviewed in September 2022, as a result of an amendment; and the City of Fremantle Prevention and Abatement of Sand Drift Local Law 2002, was last reviewed in December 2019, with no amendments made.

As part of the 2025 Local Law Review undertaken by the City, internal consultation occurred across departments to ensure all aspects of the Parking Local Law 2021 and Prevention and Abatement of Sand Drift Local Law 2002 were considered in relation to their application, effectiveness, lawfulness, and need. Officer’s recommended that the local laws remain unchanged as:

Parking Local Law 2021	A major review of this local law was undertaken in 2021, and no further amendments are proposed at this time.
Prevention and Abatement of Sand Drift Local Law 2002	All provisions within this local law are considered consistent with other local governments and no further changes are recommended at this time.

Officers have also given consideration to other Local Government local laws and previous Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation undertakings, for alike local laws, to determine if any additional changes need to be considered. None were identified.



If Council approve to leave the abovementioned local laws unchanged, no further action will be required until the next review, or unless requested by Council. However, should Council wish to make any further amendments or repeal the abovementioned local laws, they will be re-advertised for a further 6 weeks (minimum) before a final determination can be made.

### **VOTING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

Absolute Majority Required

### **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

#### **Council:**

- 1. Considers the submission received during the consultation period for the unchanged Parking Local Law 2021 and the Prevention and Abatement of Sand Drift Local Law 2002, as provided in Attachment 1.**
- 2. Approves that the Parking Local Law 2021, provided in Attachment 2, and the Prevention and Abatement of Sand Drift Local Law 2002, provided in Attachment 3, remain unchanged.**



## **C2506-11 ACTIVE RESERVE HIRE POLICY COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

<b>Meeting date:</b>	25 June 2025
<b>Responsible officer:</b>	Manager Community Development
<b>Voting requirements:</b>	Simple Majority Required
<b>Attachments:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Active Reserve Hire Policy Engagement Report</li><li>2. Active Reserve Hire Council Policy</li></ol>

### **SUMMARY**

**This report summarises the comments received during advertising for community consultation of the City's draft Active Reserve Hire Policy and any recommended changes.**

**This report recommends that Council adopt the amended Active Reserve Hire Policy, as provided in Attachment 2.**

### **BACKGROUND**

Council at its meeting on 23 April 2025 endorsed the proposed Active Sporting Reserve Hire Policy, as shown in Attachment 1, to be advertised for community consultation.

The draft policy applies to all groups and individuals wishing to access a City owned and/or managed active sporting reserve and aims to provide flexibility, consistency and equitable access for sports clubs, schools and community members, allowing for more efficient use of reserves outside traditional timeslots and seasons. Some reserves covered by the policy are leased by local Fremantle clubs, whose long-term commitment and use have been acknowledged through priority access aligned with their existing tenure agreements. Early consultation with local clubs and schools that use the City's active spaces has shown support for the policy and more efficient and transparent booking processes.

The City of Fremantle advertised the Draft Active Reserve Hire Policy for community consultation on 30 April 2025 and to close of business on 29 May 2025.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The financial implications of the Active Reserve Hire Policy were provided in the previous council decision item C2504-14.



## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

## **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

This item is in keeping with the City of Fremantle's Strategic Community Plan 2024 – 2034:

### **Liveable City - Liveable and socially connected neighbourhoods**

- Community-led clubs and groups allow for social inclusion and connection across our neighbourhoods.
- Community participation is encouraged through spaces that enable social connection.

### **Liveable City - Sustainably designed and optimised urban and natural environments**

- The community can access and enjoy natural areas and green spaces for passive and active recreation.

### **Liveable City - Functional and inclusive recreational facilities**

- Recreational facilities are contemporary, functional and can be accessed by all members of the community.
- Sporting clubs have access to facilities and greenspace that meet the needs of a broad range of sporting codes and skill levels.

### **Resilient City – A future-proofed asset base that remains functional and accessible to the community**

- The City's facilities are functional and fit for purpose and contribute to improving community well-being.

## **CONSULTATION**

The City of Fremantle opened community consultation on the Draft Active Reserve Hire Policy on 30 April 2025 and collected submissions until close of business on 29 May 2025.

City officers promoted the public engagement period in the following ways:

Social Media:

The public engagement program for this project was heavily mentioned on the City of Fremantle's Facebook page, as well as its Instagram profile throughout the lifespan of the submission period.



#### Electronic Newsletters:

The Community Engagement team deployed a "Just Launched" email newsletter announcing the opening of the public consultation period on 30 April, 2025. The Community Engagement team advertised this project via its monthly engagement newsletter in May 2025.

This email is deployed to over 4,000 people who are subscribed to hear engagement updates from the City of Fremantle.

#### 1:1 Meetings

Throughout the engagement period, members of the public were able to book 1:1 meetings with City officers to discuss the draft policy and its implications before submitting any feedback. Further detailed information regarding the process is available in the attached report.

The City received 11 formal submissions in response to the proposed policy. Of these, 7 submissions were from individuals identifying as members of Community Sporting Clubs or Organisations.

Several submissions came from respected public health organisations, which expressed support for the policy. Overall, 73% of respondents indicated support or partial support for the policy direction.

One local sporting club raised concerns regarding the potential impact of the policy on infrastructure they help maintain. Upon review, it was noted that the areas referenced are not within the scope of the proposed policy, and any existing management agreements would continue to take precedence. The City also continues to provide ongoing financial and maintenance support to assist the club in its operations at the reserve.

#### **OFFICER COMMENT**

The policy aims to increase participation in activities that promote individual and community health through effective management practices. It is pleasing to see this mirrored from the consultation from those who were supportive of the policy. Voicing concerns like;

*- Reserves are currently underutilised and mostly used by sports groups.*

The policy was identified as a step to be able to open *reserves to a wider range of community activities*. The consultation also highlighted the policy's ability support the Community Strategic Plan priorities which were *Sporting reserves are identified as valuable spaces for exercise, gatherings, and community interaction*.



During consultation, one sporting club expressed concerns about allowing other users onto their reserve. To address this, the policy includes:

*5. Community groups or organisations that hold tenure agreements on facilities adjacent to the active sporting reserve will have priority access to secure bookings.*

Supportive feedback emphasised the importance of public spaces as opportunities to *embed public health principles into community infrastructure and policies.*

Mixed feedback revealed two perspectives: protecting sporting groups versus concerns about clubs having entrenched dominance over public reserves. The City can manage both concerns by:

1. Implementing clear usage agreements for existing clubs
2. Communicating reserve availability for public use outside scheduled times

The policy provides flexibility for the City to manage these requirements effectively.

Opposition feedback cited Fremantle Oval as being protected from other users. However, Fremantle Oval accommodates diverse activities including WAFL and AFL games, visiting events, community sporting carnivals, and educational institutions. It serves a broader range of users compared to other sporting reserves.

The Cancer Council's submission suggested implementing health measures such as restricting alcohol advertising. While this aligns with policy outcomes, the Health and Wellbeing team plans to address these measures through alternative strategies and the Public Health Plan currently in development.

## **VOTING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority Required

## **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

### **Council:**

- 1. Receive and note the Community Engagement Report, as provided in Attachment 1.**
- 2. Adopt the Active Reserve Hire Policy, as provided in Attachment 2.**



## C2506-12 WORKING GROUP INFORMATION REPORT

### 1. CITY PLAN ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

**WG Chair:** Cr Ingrid van Dorssen  
**Responsible officer:** Manager City Design and Strategic Planning  
**Attachments:** Nil

The Working Group has essentially completed its work in guiding the engagement process for this piece of strategic work. However, the CEO has proposed to arrange one final Working Group meeting and invite all elected members to review the final stage of community feedback and report finalisation in response to action 3 added to the Council resolution at its meeting 28 May 2025:

- 1. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to release the draft 'City Plan: City Centre report (Draft - Phase 2 Community Engagement May 2025)' as provided in Attachment 1, for the purpose of extensive community consultation.*
- 2. Notes that any submissions received during the consultation period will be presented to Council for consideration.*
- 3. Request the Chief Executive Officer initiate a structured process to facilitate a thorough elected member review of the plan prior to the presentation of a final draft to Council for consideration by the end of August 2025.*

### 2. COMMUNITY EMISSIONS WORKING GROUP

**WG meeting date:** 5 May 2025  
**WG Chair:** Cr Jemima Williamson-Wong  
**Responsible officer:** Director Planning, Place and Urban Development  
**Attachments:** 1. Community Emissions Working Group Minutes 5 May 2025

At the last meeting of the Working Group, the following key aspects were discussed / agreed / noted:

- The draft Community Emissions Reduction Action Plan (CERAP) was presented by the City's Senior Sustainability Officer, including the 12 Key Actions.
- A broad sustainability framework specific for Fremantle was presented that would, in time, replace the One Planet framework. This received broad support from the Group.



- It was noted that the draft budget for 2025/26 included funding for sustainability actions, once the Group had finalised its preferred list and gained support from Council to proceed.
- It was noted that the draft policy and timeline to introduce LCA at DA stage for private developments would be presented to council on 14th May 2025.

On 19/05/2025 the Chair circulated a set of alternative Key Actions for the draft CERAP. These are being integrated with the original 12 actions for the Working group to reach a final decision at its next meeting.

### **3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2024 WORKING GROUP**

<b>WG meeting date:</b>	30 April 2025
<b>WG Chair:</b>	Cr Andrew Sullivan
<b>Responsible officer:</b>	Director City Business
<b>Attachments:</b>	2. Economic Development Strategy 2024 Working Group Minutes 30 April 2025

In April, the Economic Development Working Group met with local industry representatives of the Blue and Immersive Economy to explore key opportunities and challenges facing businesses in Fremantle. The discussion centred on the types of support businesses would like to receive from the City, ways the City can more effectively advocate for industry needs, what aspects of doing business in Fremantle are working well, and the factors that influence why businesses choose to base themselves in Fremantle—or, in some cases, decide to operate elsewhere.

Key feedback points included:

- A strong need for a marine testing facility with water access, available for commercial bookings.
- Calls for a more diplomatic, concierge-style approach to welcoming and supporting new businesses, including an official city concierge to assist international and relocating enterprises.
- The importance of attracting venture capital and facilitating investment in marine technology and aquaculture startups.
- Recognition that Fremantle is best suited for prototyping, research and development, and early-stage commercialisation, rather than large-scale production.
- Fremantle’s heritage character, lifestyle appeal, and proximity to Rottnest Island are seen as assets for attracting talent, despite some infrastructure limitations.
- A need to better promote Fremantle’s strategic position and improve transport links, parking, and access to Perth CBD—factors that contributed to businesses relocating to CBD or West Perth.



- Suggestions to incentivise landlords to activate and repurpose underutilised spaces to foster business growth and vibrancy in the city centre.

The insights gathered will inform the city's ongoing work to strengthen industry relationships and guide future economic development priorities.

#### **4. NORTH FREMANTLE PLAN WORKING GROUP**

<b>WG meeting date:</b>	14 April 2025
<b>WG Chair:</b>	Cr Doug Thompson (Deputy Chair: Cr van Dorssen)
<b>Responsible officer:</b>	Director Planning, Place and Urban Development
<b>Attachments:</b>	3. North Fremantle Plan Working Group Minutes 14 April 2025

At the first meeting of the Working Group, the following key aspects were discussed / agreed / noted:

- Meeting Purpose.
- Presentation of Project Brief.
- Project background, history and urban analysis.
- Feedback from Working Group regarding key elements that should be included in study.
- Outline of proposed Community Engagement, Stage 1.
- Tentative next meeting date in July 2025.

Broad community consultation commenced on 20 May 2025.

A focussed workshop with North Fremantle residents was held on 10 June 2025 at the North Fremantle Community Hall.

#### **VOTING AND OTHER SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority Required

#### **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

**Council receive the following working group updates for June 2025:**

- 1. CITY PLAN ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUP**
- 2. COMMUNITY EMISSIONS WORKING GROUP**
- 3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2024 WORKING GROUP**
- 4. NORTH FREMANTLE PLAN**



## Statutory reports

### **C2506-13 ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET 2025-2026**

<b>Meeting date:</b>	25 June 2025
<b>Responsible officer:</b>	A/Manager Financial Services
<b>Voting requirements:</b>	Absolute Majority Required
<b>Attachments:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Submissions for Proposed TUPP Charges 2025-2026</li><li>2. Budget 2025-2026</li><li>3. Budget Capital Projects 2025-2026</li><li>4. Budget Fees and Charges 2025-2026</li></ol>

#### **SUMMARY**

**This report is to consider the adoption of the 2025-26 Budget which includes the Municipal, Trust and Reserve Fund budget for the 2025-26 financial year together with supporting schedules, including imposition of rates and minimum payments, adoption of fees and charges, establishment of new reserves, setting of Elected Members fees for the year and other consequential matters arising from the budget papers.**

**Budget 2025-26 includes just over \$149 million in operating and capital expenditure over the coming financial year. The budget has been prepared taking into consideration the Strategic Community Plan, Corporate Business Plan and long-term financial plan.**

**This budget proposes a 5.0% increase in rates as well as increases in most non-statutory fees and charges in line with CPI where appropriate.**

**The budget document has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995, Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* and Australian Accounting Standards.**

**This report recommends that Council adopt the 2025-26 Budget which comprises the Statutory Financial Statements, setting of rates and associated rate charges, annual fees and charges, use of reserve funds and Elected Member fees and allowances.**

#### **BACKGROUND**

The draft 2025-26 budget has been compiled based on principles contained in the Strategic Community Plan and Corporate Plan. In preparing the proposed budget for 2025-26 a thorough review of all base operating, capital and operating projects has been undertaken by Elected Members and Management through a



series of long-term financial planning and budget workshops between February and June 2025.

The proposed differential general rates and minimum payments were endorsed for advertising by Council at its meeting on 14 May 2025 and advertised for public comment.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

This report sets the 2025-26 annual budget for the City of Fremantle.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The draft budget 2025-26 has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995*, the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* and Australian Accounting Standards.

Section 6.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995* requires that no 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 *Local Government Act 1995* 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 2025-26 budget as presented is considered to meet statutory requirements.

Section 6.11 of the *Local Government Act 1995* requires the City to establish and maintain a reserve account for the purpose of setting aside money for a specific purpose to be used in a future period. Any change to the purpose or proposed use of reserve funds is to be disclosed in the annual budget.

## **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

This item is in keeping with the City of Fremantle's Strategic Community Plan 2024 – 2034:

### **Corporate - Lead and empower the organisation to deliver the vision of 'strong reputation, stronger future'**

- Support the City through financial, procurement and revenue functions whilst ensuring legislative compliance and providing excellent customer service.



## **CONSULTATION**

While no specific consultation has occurred on the draft 2025-26 budget, community consultation and engagement has previously occurred during development of the Strategic Community Plan.

As per the resolution of Council dated 14 May 2025, the City advertised the proposed differential rates for public comment. During the public submission period (21 days), the City received no submissions.

The City also advertised the proposed service charge for the South Fremantle and Fremantle South targeted underground power project (TUPP) for public comment. During the public submission period (21 days), the City received a total of 5 submissions. These submissions are provided in Attachment 1 for Council consideration.

## **OFFICER COMMENT**

### **State and Local Economic Context**

Western Australia's economy remains one of the strongest in the country, underpinned by its resources sector, population growth, and resilient domestic demand. In 2023-24, WA accounted for 17.2% of the national economy, despite making up only 10.9% of Australia's population. The state's Gross State Product (GSP) grew by 0.5% in 2023-24, reaching its largest size on record of \$448.2 billion, highlighting its continued economic strength. In the year to January 2025, WA accounted for \$232.8 billion in goods exports, representing 45.1% of the nation's total exports, reinforcing its role as Australia's economic powerhouse.

Consumer price inflation in Perth has fallen significantly over the past two years, from a high of 8.3% in the December quarter 2022. Perth's annual inflation rate, as measured by year-on-year growth in the consumer price index (CPI), was 2.9% in the December quarter 2024, down from 3.8% in the previous quarter. However, Perth's annual CPI inflation has been above Australia's over the past three quarters.

The Reserve Bank of Australia recently cut interest rates to 4.1% in March 2025, marking the first reduction in over four years, aimed at stimulating further economic activity.

Residential construction costs rose by 3.4% over the 12 months to December 2024. Since the onset of COVID-19, construction costs have cumulatively increased by 30.8% (Property Council WA).

Despite ongoing global uncertainties, Western Australia continues to benefit from sustained demand for its mineral resources, a growing tourism sector, and a



diversified economy. While economic growth is expected to moderate compared to previous years, WA remains well-positioned for long-term expansion, supported by population growth, strategic infrastructure investment, and increasing economic diversification.

Gross State Product (GSP) is projected to grow modestly within the 2-3% range, reflecting the state's resilience amid evolving global market conditions.

Investment in renewable energy, technology, and advanced manufacturing is set to accelerate, reinforcing WA's economic foundation and future competitiveness.

The labour market is expected to remain competitive, supported by strong international migration. While the unemployment rate may gradually rise, it is anticipated to remain relatively low. Wage growth is forecast to stay strong but is likely to moderate as the labour market adjusts.

Inflation is expected to gradually ease towards the Reserve Bank of Australia's target range (RBA, 2025), while interest rates may see further adjustments to support economic stability. Population growth, driven by interstate and international migration, will continue to drive demand for housing, infrastructure, and services, creating new demand in construction, retail, and related sectors.

While the second half of 2024/25 has indicated positive signs with the gradual return of inflation back towards the RBA's target band, the City remains focused on managing latent cost pressures associated with the lag of economic conditions from the last 3-4 years.

WALGA's economic briefing for the March quarter of 2025 has identified the following key observations in relation to the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI). The LGCI is based on statewide cost data collected from across WA Local Governments.

- After a period of high increases in construction costs, followed by elevated wages growth, Local Government costs are starting to return to a more moderate level of growth across the board.
- While the rate of wage growth is beginning to ease, wages are expected to continue to grow as the WA labour market is the tightest in the nation and economic activity is forecast to support ongoing employment growth.
- Growth in construction costs has begun to stabilise however tight industry capacity and likely cost pressures in some components of construction raise the possibility of additional upward price pressures beyond current forecasts. Elevated levels of housing construction, encouraged by the State and Federal Governments, will increase demand for a limited supply of materials and labour.



## **2024/25 Budget Achievements**

The 2024/25 financial year has seen the delivery of a significant capital program with over \$8.5m invested in the Fremantle community. Notable projects completed included:

- The completion of the South Beach Changerooms and landscaping works
- Major investment into heritage including upgrades to the Town Hall balcony, electrical upgrades at the Moore's building and commencement of Façade works to 38-40 Henry Street
- Commencement of the federally funded Arts Centre Creative hub
- Acquisition of two new public toilet facilities to be installed early in the 2025/26 financial year
- MRRG High Street, South Street and other Road Upgrades
- Completion of footpath upgrades at Attfield St, Field St, Wood St, Paget St, Swanbourne St, South St, Solomon St, Martha St and Leake St
- Completion of drainage upgrades at Wongan Ave and Collick St
- Delivery of upgrades to several parks and reserves including BBQ upgrades at South Beach, upgrades to Parmelia Park Playground, Shade Sail at Griffiths Park, additional parking and footpaths at Samson Reserve as well as renewal of irrigation.
- Commencement of the commercial fit out of the Walyalup Civic Centre as a result of securing several commercial tenancies.
- Over \$1.1 million was invested in the renewal of plant, fleet, and equipment to ensure the continued operational capability across key service areas. This included the procurement of a new footpath sweeper, pool vehicles, mowers, and trucks to support the functions of Waste & Cleansing, Construction Maintenance, and Parks & Landscaping.

In addition to the capital program, the City delivered over \$30 million in operating activities (excluding staffing) over the 2024/25 financial year which included the following highlights:

- \$5.5 million on the maintenance of our parks and landscapes, including over \$500K invested in the planting and maintenance of trees.
- Over \$5 million invested in the management of waste and resource recovery.
- Over \$4 million invested into the maintenance of our community facilities and buildings.
- Over \$3.6 million invested in arts and culture related programming, events and facilities.
- Over \$2 million invested into the maintenance of existing roads, footpaths and drainage.
- Over \$2 million invested in the delivery of community programs, services, safety and well-being.
- Close to \$1 million in economic development and activation related initiatives.



## **Our Financial Priorities**

The past 5-10 years have seen the City achieve significant milestones in the completion of a once in a generation revitalisation of the City Centre, while navigating unprecedented global economic conditions.

Western Australia has not been immune to these global economic conditions, and Local Governments have had to absorb the resulting increases to the cost-of-service delivery and wage growth.

While the City has been able to successfully rebuild its discretionary revenue sources over this challenging period and inflationary pressures are now beginning to ease, the reality remains that rates revenue accounts for more than 60% of the City of Fremantle's income. As such a consistent approach to managing latent cost pressures and community demand for infrastructure and services will need to be considered as we continue to build on a sustainable financial future for the City.

In addition to managing and maintaining sustainable sources of revenue, the City must continue to invest in the maintenance and renewal of its existing assets in order to continue to make these assets and facilities available to the community.

These assets – parks, footpaths, buildings, library, roads, facilities etc – are worth well over \$700 million and the City needs to ensure an adequate program to maintain them, as any delay may present a financial burden for coming future generations.

Subsequently a key objective for the City's Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) is to close the gap on current renewal requirements.

Notwithstanding this the City must also continue to plan for ongoing investment into new projects and initiatives that add value for local communities both in the City Centre and across our suburbs. As such it is intended that we continue to build our financial capacity so that we can work towards investing annually in new projects that meet both the needs of our growing community and the ongoing operational requirements of service delivery.

In response to this our approach to annual budgeting remains predicated on the achievement of the following core objectives.

- Continue to deliver core services that meet the needs of our growing community.
- Invest in the upgrade and renewal of public infrastructure and amenity.
- Manage and maintain our parks, reserves & community infrastructure.

The 2025-26 financial year will see a continued focus on the achievement of these core objectives, with the delivery of a balanced and fiscally responsible budget. This will include investment into the delivery of capital projects across the following areas:



- \$7.6m across our parks and recreation reserves
- \$2.3m across key heritage assets
- \$2 million for the improvement of public amenity and infrastructure
- \$2 million towards the upgrade of community facilities
- \$1.5 million towards road safety and traffic calming

2025-26 will see an estimated 60% of the capital projects budget allocated to projects outside of our CBD indicating that the majority of our capital projects budget is focused on investing in the suburbs.

In addition to capital projects, the City's ongoing capital renewal programs will also result in the investment of over \$7.5m into following areas:

- Building maintenance and renewal
- Drainage
- Footpaths
- Parks and reserves
- Plant, equipment and vehicles
- Road safety and maintenance
- Street lighting

The City will also continue to deliver core services to the community via a substantial operating program reflected in the draft budget document presented with this report.

Beyond 2025-26, the City's long term financial plan indicates an increased investment year on year into our capital renewal programs including, building maintenance, drainage, footpaths, plant & equipment and street lighting. Further information regarding the city's long term financial plan is available in the Long-Term Financial Plan Agenda report.

### **Key 2025/26 Budget Highlights**

In noting the previously mentioned priorities, further 2025/26 budget highlights include:

- \$29m in expenditure on delivery of capital projects
- \$120m in operational expenditure for the delivery of services to the community

Operational expenditure highlights include:

- \$15.9M towards the operation of our key community facilities including the Fremantle Library, Fremantle Leisure Centre, Fremantle Arts Centre and Fremantle Community Legal Centre, a large portion of which is offset by the fees and charges income and grant revenue generated by those facilities.
- \$11.5m towards parks, landscapes and natural areas



- \$9.5m towards the delivery of waste and resource recovery initiatives
- \$5.9m towards the ongoing Maintenance of our buildings
- \$2.3m towards the delivery of economic development, tourism marketing and investment attraction initiatives
- \$2.0m towards the delivery of arts, culture and festivals
- \$2.2m towards community safety

Capital project expenditure highlights include:

- \$1.2m for the Henry St Façade upgrades
- \$2.6m for renewal and upgrade of roads
- \$1.0m towards the delivery of upgrades at Samson Park
- \$1.75m for the Hilton Park Master Plan Northern Zone projects
- \$1.1m for public toilet facilities at Collie Street
- \$1.8m towards irrigation systems
- \$0.8m on playgrounds
- \$0.7m towards City buildings
- \$0.7m towards footpaths
- \$0.2m towards street lighting
- \$3.2m towards Booyeembara Park Masterplan – Golf course/Community Facility.

Other key features of the draft budget for 2025-26 include:

- The City will generate \$67.5m in rate income, an increase of \$4.0m on last year's budget. The rate income generated by the City for this budget comprises 62% of operating revenue sources, as compared to 66% in the budget set for 2024/25.
- Total budget income is \$119.0m, comprised of \$9.7m in capital grants, \$0.2m in proceeds from sale of assets and \$109.2m in operating cash income.
- Total budget expenditure is \$129.1m, comprised of \$29.2m in capital expenditure, \$97.9m in operating cash expenditure and \$2.0m in loan principal and lease repayments.
- The capital works programme (inclusive of carried forward projects) totals \$29.2m, which is being funded by;
  - \$9.7m from grants and contributions,
  - \$5.8m transferred from reserves, and
  - \$10.8m from municipal funds and \$2.9m carried forward fundsThe full capital works programme is contained within the attachments.
- There are no new loan borrowings proposed for this budget.



- Reserve funds are expected to decrease by \$4.0m during 2025-26.
- The budget for 2025-26 indicates that the closing position for reserves as at 30 June 2025 will be \$15.4m.

Significant transfers to reserves are:

- \$1.8m to the South Fremantle Targeted Underground Power reserve for Service charges raised in the financial year.

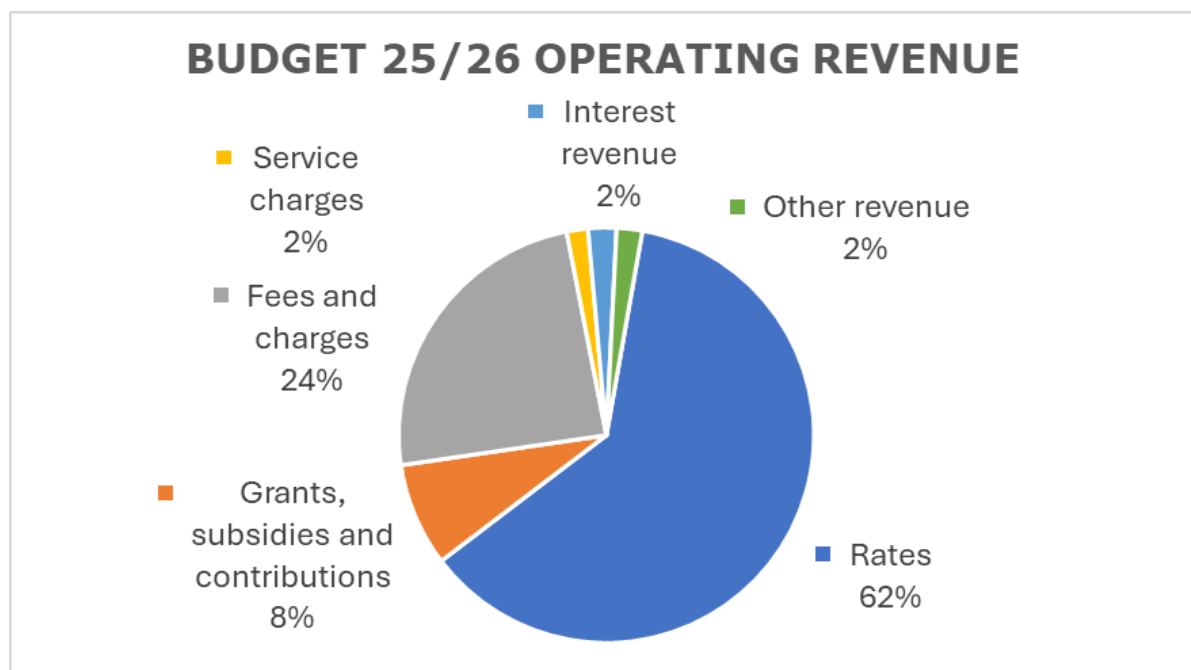
Significant transfers from reserve are:

- \$1.9m from the Projects Unexpended Municipal Reserve for projects including \$1.2m for Design and construct – 38-40 Henry Street – Façade.
- \$1.5m from the Parking Dividend equalisation reserve for Program - Ticket machines.
- \$0.7m from the Investment Fund Reserve for Walyalup Civic Centre Tenancy Fitout.
- \$0.6m from Hilton Park Sports Reserve towards the Hilton Park Master Plan- Northern Zone Projects

## **Operating Budget**

### **REVENUE**

The total operating revenue budget totals \$109.2m and is comprised of:





	<b>Budget 2025-26</b>	<b>Budget 2024-25</b>
<b>Rates (incl. Specified Area)</b>	\$67.5m	\$63.5m
<b>Service Charges</b>	\$1.8m	\$0m
<b>Operating Grants, Subsidies and Contributions</b>	\$8.8m	\$3.7m
<b>Fees and Charges</b>	\$26.4m	\$25.6m
<b>Interest Earnings</b>	\$2.4m	\$2.0m
<b>Other Revenue</b>	\$2.2m	\$1.8m
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$109.2m</b>	<b>\$96.7m</b>

- Rates – 62%

Total revenue from rates (general and specified area rates) will increase by \$4.0m due to an average proposed rates increase of 5.0%. The increase is in line with increasing cost pressures outlined earlier in this report and ensuring that all renewal works, services and provision of amenities is maintained within a changing economic environment.

- Service Charges – 2%

The 2025-26 budget includes \$1.8m service charge income for South Fremantle Targeted Underground Power and \$9k service charge income for provision of a community bore.

- Grants, subsidies and contributions – 8%

Total revenue from operating grants, subsidies and contributions is higher than 2024-25 mainly due to grants associated with non-recurring projects including \$3.4m for Carnevale.

- Fees and charges – 24%

Fees and charges will generally increase by 3%. The total revenue from fees and charges will increase by \$0.8m which is mostly attributed to increased parking fees and income from the leisure centre and south lawn events.

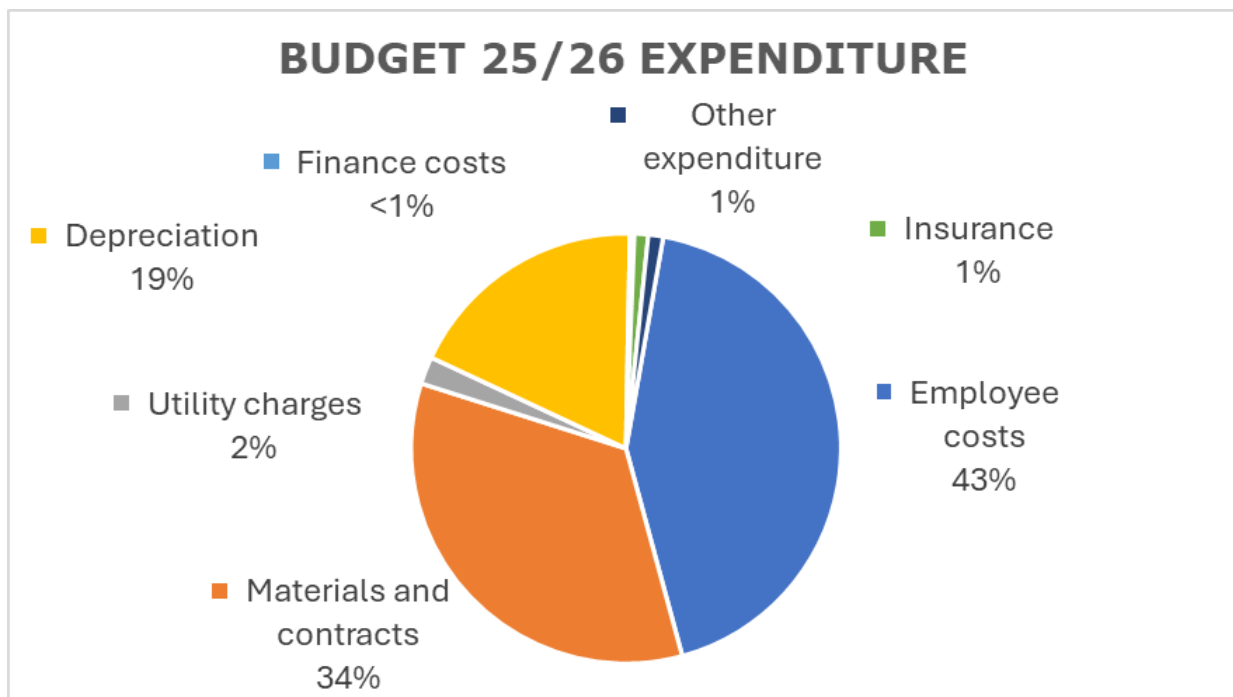
Details on each individual fee and charge proposed are provided in the Fees and Charges schedule that forms part of the Annual Budget document, attachment 4.



- Interest Earnings – 2%  
 Total revenue from interest earnings is estimated to increase by \$0.4m based on the current interest rate settings and available cash funds for investment.
  
- Other revenue – 2%  
 Total revenue from other revenue will increase by \$0.4m, mostly attributed to the reimbursements for leased commercial property expenditure and containers for change.

**EXPENSES**

The total operating expenses budget totals \$119.5m and is comprised of:



	<b>Budget 2025-26</b>	<b>Budget 2024-25</b>
<b>Employee costs</b>	\$51.4m	\$49.4m
<b>Materials and contracts</b>	\$40.8m	\$34.0m
<b>Utilities</b>	\$2.5m	\$2.2m
<b>Depreciation</b>	\$21.9m	\$22.3m



<b>Finance costs</b>	\$0.4m	\$0.4m
<b>Insurance</b>	\$1.2m	\$1.2m
<b>Other expenditure</b>	\$1.3m	\$1.5m
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$119.5m</b>	<b>\$110.9m</b>

- Employee costs – 43%  
 Total expenses from employee costs will increase by \$2.0m due to increases in salaries and wages, workers compensation insurance cost and the legislated increase to superannuation guarantee.
- Materials and contracts – 34%  
 Total expenses from materials and contracts will increase by \$6.8m due to increased expenditure on operating projects including \$3.4m for a proposed major event (fully grant funded), contract expenses & programs. Increases are also to allow for CPI or market adjustments to recurring costs and project expenditure to deliver core services and key projects.
- Utility Charges – 2%  
 Utility charges which comprise electricity, gas and water costs are based on forecast unit charges together with any growth in usage. Total expenses from Utility charges are expected to increase slightly from 2024-25 primarily due to price escalations expected in the energy market.
- Depreciation – 19%  
 This is a non-cash item and does not affect rates and charges. Depreciation is included in the Statement of Comprehensive Income to reflect the reduction in the value of assets.
- Finance costs– <1%  
 Total expenses from interest expense relating to loan agreements with the Western Australian Treasury corporation (WATC) and lease agreements will reduce by \$10k mainly due to the City’s outstanding principal on loan borrowings being reduced due to repayment of loan instalments.
- Insurance – 1%  
 Total expenses for insurance expense is estimated to increase \$52k for the insurance premiums.

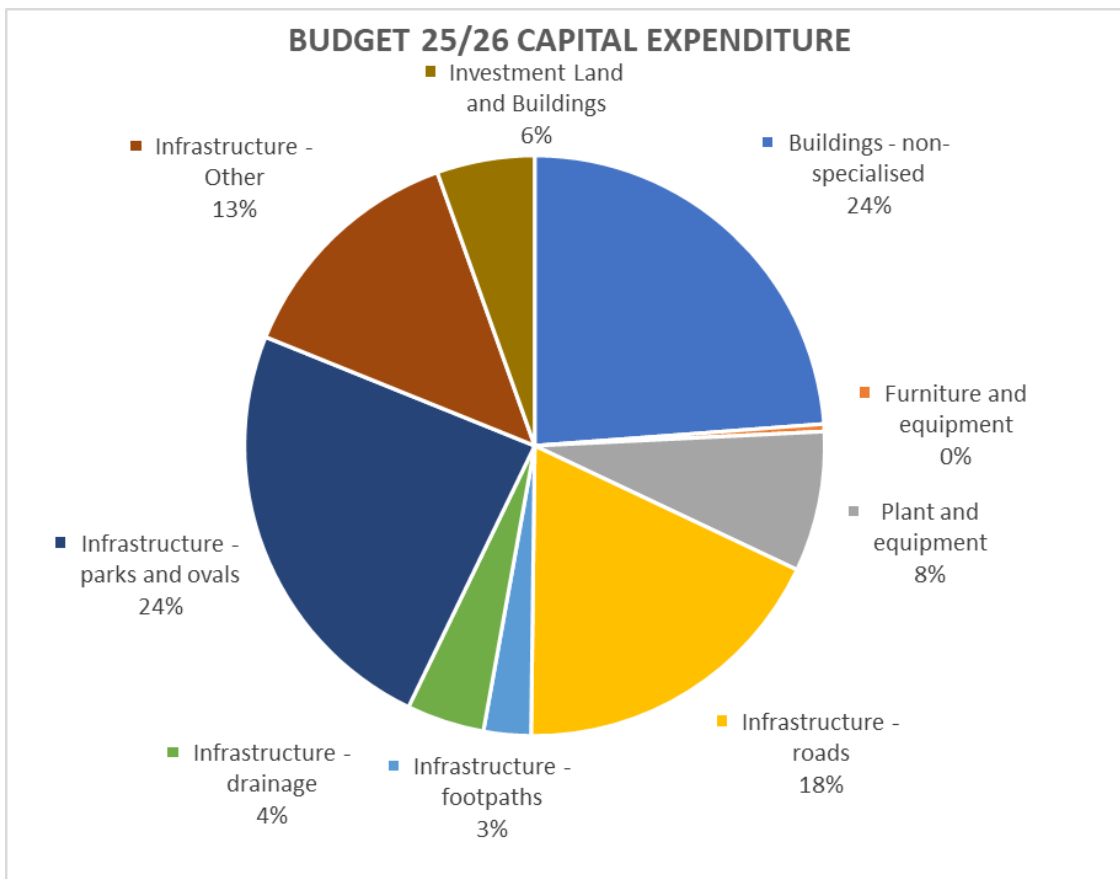


- Other expenditure – 1%

Other expenses comprise of statutory fees, councillor fees and donations and subsidies made to community groups. This will decrease by \$146k mainly due to a reduction in contributions to the Resource Recovery Group (RRG).

**Capital Projects**

The capital budget 2025-26 includes \$29.2m in capital expenditure in these key areas:



Some of the major projects included in the capital budget have been referenced in the budget highlights section. A detailed listing of all individual capital works program projects is included in attachment 3 – Proposed Budget for Capital Projects 2025-26.

The capital budget does not include any new loan borrowings for next financial year. The opening loan principal balance on 1 July 25 is \$16.9m and, taking into account the principal repayments throughout 2025-26, the estimated closing balance at 30 June 2026 is \$15.6m.



## **Carry forward Capital Projects**

As at the end of the 2024-25 financial year, some projects and asset replacements are either incomplete or not commenced. This may be due to:

- The size and complexity of projects which will by their very nature, need to be segmented over multiple financial years to accommodate accurate development and effective delivery; and
- Projects which suffered delays and interruptions due to supply chain disruptions and/or labour shortages.

It is estimated that the carry-forward capital projects from 2024-25 will amount to \$6.3m. This will bring the total Capital Works Program for 2024/25 to \$29.2m. The carried forward project component is fully funded from the 2024-25 Budget. Actual amounts will however be adjusted based on the final end of year results.

## **Proposed Rates**

An advertisement calling for public submissions, on the differential rates, was placed in The Herald newspaper and on the City’s public notice webpage from Saturday 17 May 2025. No submissions were received for the differential rates.

The City also advertised the proposed service charge for the South Fremantle and Fremantle South targeted underground power project. The City received a total of 5 submissions. These submissions are provided in Attachment 1 for Council consideration.

The proposed 2025-26 rating structure, nominated Rates in the Dollar and minimum payments which are recommended for consideration are as follows:

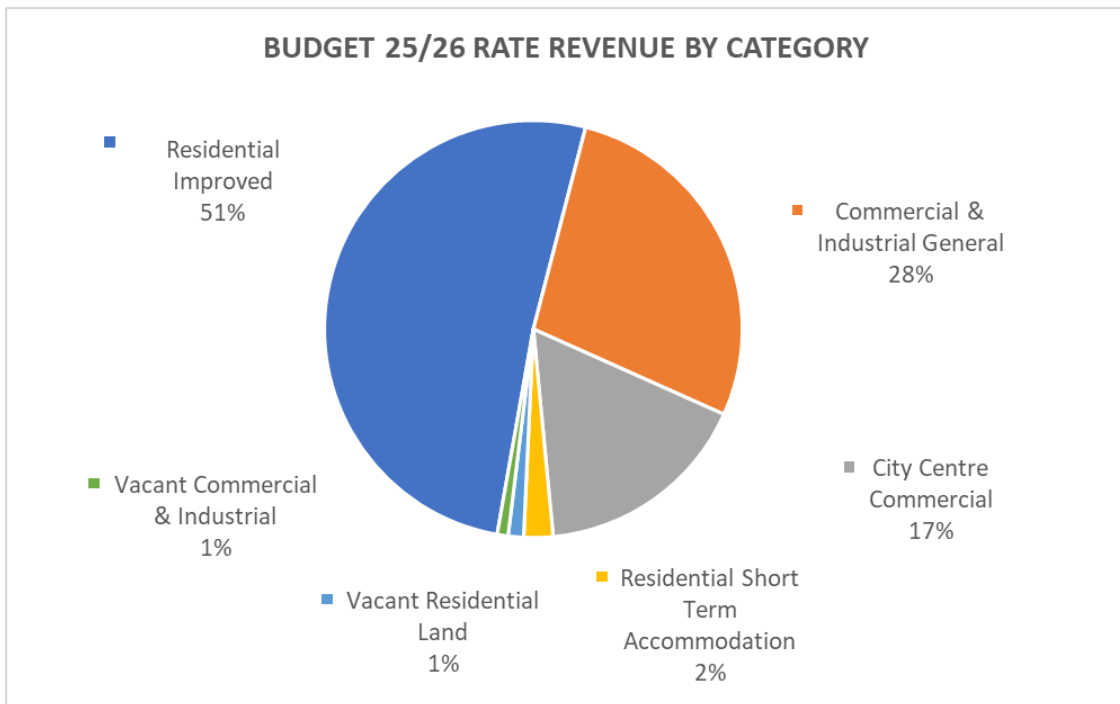
<b>DIFFERENTIAL RATE CATEGORY</b>	<b>RATE IN THE \$</b>	<b>MINIMUM PAYMENT</b>
<b>Residential Improved</b>	0.087664	\$1,825
<b>Commercial and Industrial General</b>	0.118877	\$1,825
<b>City Centre Commercial</b>	0.118877	\$1,825
<b>Residential Short-Term Accommodation</b>	0.118835	\$1,825
<b>Vacant Residential Land</b>	0.151417	\$1,770
<b>Vacant Commercial and Industrial</b>	0.175327	\$1,825



The proposed 2025-26 specified area rates to be applied, increased by 5.0% on 2024-25, are provided in the table to follow:

<b>SPECIFIED AREA RATES</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>RATE IN THE \$</b>
<b>CBD Security Levy</b>	<b>A safety and security strategy for a specified area of the Fremantle CBD.</b>	0.0015288
<b>Leighton Maintenance</b>	<b>To fund the above normal costs associated with maintaining the higher standard of landscaping of the Leighton residential area.</b>	0.0066140

The rate revenue generated from each rating differential is represented in the following graph:



Alternative Rate Payment Options

This year the City will continue to provide an option of weekly and fortnightly direct debit payment for rates to allow ratepayers to spread payments over the year to ease their financial burden.



The City also has a Hardship Policy accessible to all ratepayers to ensure that those in financial stress or a position of vulnerability have the City's support.

#### Western Power Targeted Underground Power Program

The 2025/26 financial year will see the commencement of the design stage of the multi-year Targeted Underground Power Project (TUPP) by Western Power for the South Fremantle and Fremantle South project area.

This follows an extensive program of engagement with property owners within the project area that commenced in early 2024 and is continuing over the coming months. While this has not impacted the proposed differential rates, properties within the project area will be subject to a service charge to aid in the delivery of the project. The total project cost is currently estimated by Western Power at approximately \$53.8m (+/-30%).

Based on the number of properties in the project area, this roughly equates to a cost of \$24,000 per property however Western Power are substantially subsidising the project to the tune of around 80%. This means the City will only be required to recover an estimated cost to ratepayers of approximately \$14.3m. This cost will be recovered via collection of a service charge as part of annual rates notices over a 7-year period.

This does not include any interest costs, as it is still the City's intent not to take on any borrowings for this project.

#### *Residential Properties*

There will be two service charges collected from residential property owners within the project area, the property connection service charge and the transmission infrastructure service charge.

The transmission infrastructure service charge relates to upgrades to the broader network distribution infrastructure and power supply. This charge will apply to all properties, as it is an upgrade to the broader network that everybody utilises. The amount an individual property is to be charged is calculated based on the average KVA usage of that property type as determined by Western Power.

The average KVA usage rates for property types, as provided by Western Power are as follows:

- Single residential – 7.7 KVA
- Multi Dwelling (2-4 Units) – 6.2 KVA
- Multi Dwelling (5-10 Units) – 4.4 KVA
- Multi Dwelling (10+ Units) – 4 KVA



Estimated costs to residential property owners for the infrastructure transmission charge will range from \$1,532 for a small unit in an apartment complex (\$219 per year for 7 years) through to \$2950 for a single residential dwelling (\$422 per year for 7 years).

A property connection service charge will apply to properties that are currently connected via the overhead system (poles and wires) and will require their property to be connected to the new underground supply.

Properties that already have an underground connection (green dome) and do not require any works to connect to the new underground supply will not be required to pay the property connection service charge.

This charge is calculated by dividing the total cost of this part of the project by the number of properties in the project area that require a connection. Estimated costs to property owners for the property connection service charge are currently estimated to be \$4287 per property that requires a connection (\$612 per connection per year over 7 years).

### *Commercial Properties*

There will also be two service charges collected from commercial property owners within the project area, the property connection service charge and the transmission infrastructure service charge.

As with residential properties, the Transmission Infrastructure Service Charge for commercial properties relates to upgrades to the broader network distribution infrastructure and power supply. This charge will apply to all commercial properties, as it is an upgrade to the broader network that everybody utilises.

The amount an individual commercial property is to be charged is also calculated based on the average KVA usage of that property type, however due to KVA usage rates for commercial property types fluctuating much more widely than residential properties, commercial properties will also be categorised in line with the GRV range they fall within. Western Power typically enables demand of up to 180KVA for small commercial and between 180-1000 KVA for medium commercial.

As such an average KVA figure has been applied to each GRV range based on the types of commercial properties that exist within those GRV ranges (within the project area).

It should be noted that as part of community feedback received during the recent advertising of TUPP service charges, the City identified that the addition of one more GRV category for commercial properties would provide a more equitable spread of costs across the commercial category. As such a "Micro/Shop House - GRV under \$50K" category has been added which includes properties under a 50K GRV. This category also includes sub 50K GRV properties that have both residential & commercial use in a single strata title.



The GRV groupings for the commercial category are therefore as follows:

- Micro/Shop House - GRV under \$50K
- Small - GRV \$50K - \$100K
- Medium - GRV \$100K - \$1 million
- Large - GRV over \$1 million

Based on this the transmission infrastructure charge for commercial property ranges from approximately \$2,950 (\$422 per year for 7 years) for a very small/micro commercial use within the under \$50K category through to \$11,799 (\$1686 per year for 7 years) for a larger commercial property in the \$1m+ category.

Submissions received regarding the advertising of TUPP service charges are provided in attachment 1 for consideration.

## **VOTING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

Absolute Majority Required

## **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

### **Council:**

- 1. Notes the submissions received regarding the differential rates which were advertised for 21 days from 17 May 2025 in attachment 1.**
- 2. Council adopts the following:**
  - 2.1. Annual budget for the financial year ending 30 June 2026;**

**Pursuant to the provisions of Section 6.2 of the Local Government Act 1995, Part 3 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, and in accordance with the provisions of Australian Accounting Standards, the Council adopt the Municipal Fund Budget as contained in Attachment 2 for the City of Fremantle for the 2025-26 financial year which includes the following:**

- **Statement of Comprehensive Income by Nature and Type showing a net result for that year of (\$943,064).**
- **Statement of Cash Flows, showing cash at end of the year position of \$12,874,941.**
- **Statement of Financial Activity showing an amount required to be raised from general rates of \$58,617,336.**
- **Notes to and Forming Part of the Budget**
- **Capital Budget Program of \$29,176,417 contained in attachment 3.**
- **Transfers to/from Reserve Accounts as per note 9(a) of attachment 2.**



**2.2. New Reserve;**

Pursuant to Section 6.11(1) of the Local Government Act 1995 create a New Reserve titled "Service Charge reserve –South Fremantle Targeted Underground power" the purpose of which is to fund the delivery of the South Fremantle Targeted underground power project being delivered by Western Power.

**2.3. Differential Rates;**

Pursuant to Sections 6.32, 6.33, 6.34 and 6.35 of the Local Government Act 1995 Council impose the following differential general rates and minimum payments on Gross Rental Values for 2025-26 financial year:

<b>DIFFERENTIAL RATE CATEGORY</b>	<b>RATE IN THE \$</b>	<b>MINIMUM PAYMENT</b>
<b>Residential Improved</b>	0.087664	\$1,825
<b>Commercial and Industrial General</b>	0.118877	\$1,825
<b>City Centre Commercial</b>	0.118877	\$1,825
<b>Residential Short-Term Accommodation</b>	0.118835	\$1,825
<b>Vacant Residential Land</b>	0.151417	\$1,770
<b>Vacant Commercial and Industrial</b>	0.175327	\$1,825

**2.4. Concessions/waiver;**

Pursuant to Section 6.47 of the Local Government Act 1995, Council adopts to grant rate concessions of \$225,198 to the properties identified and as prescribed in Note 2(f) of the proposed 2025-26 annual budget.

Concessions adopted are capped at \$12,000pa maximum per ratepayer in budget 2025-26.

**2.5. Instalments;**

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 by instalments:

**Option 1 (Full Payment)**

Full amount of rates and charges, including arrears, to be paid on or before 05 September 2025 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rate notice, whichever is later.



**Option 2 (Two Instalments)**

**First Instalment to be paid on or before 05 September 2025 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rate notice, whichever is later, including all arrears; and**

**Second Instalment to be paid on or before 16 January 2026, or 2 months after the due date of the first instalment, whichever is later.**

**Option 3 (Four Instalments)**

**First Instalment to be paid on or before 05 September 2025 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rate notice, whichever is later, including all arrears; and**

**Second Instalment to be paid on or before 14 November 2025, or 2 months after the due date of the first instalment, whichever is later.**

**Third Instalment to be paid on or before 16 January 2026, or 2 months after the due date of the second instalment, whichever is later.**

**Fourth Instalment to be paid on or before 20 March 2026, or 2 months after the due date of the third instalment, whichever is later.**

**Option 4 Forty (40) weekly instalments (for direct debits only):**

**Commencing direct debit date – Friday 5 September 2025**

**Final payment direct debit date – Friday 29 May 2026**

**Option 5 Twenty (20) fortnightly instalments (for direct debits only):**

**Commencing direct debit date – Friday 5 September 2025**

**Final payment direct debit date – Friday 5 June 2026**

**2.6. Administration Charge;**

**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 of \$43.20 fixed for the 4-instalment plan and an instalment administration charge of \$14.40 fixed for the 2-instalment plan where the owner has elected to pay rates and charges through the instalment options; being \$13.90 for each instalment after the initial instalment is paid.**

**2.7. Instalment Interest;**

**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 charges through an instalment option.**



## **2.8. Penalty Interest;**

**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, charges and costs of proceedings to recover such charges that remains unpaid after becoming due and payable, the rate of interest that may be set by a local government in its 2025-26 annual budget may not exceed 11%.**

## **2.9. Fees and Charges;**

**Pursuant to Section 6.16 of the Local Government Act 1995 and other legislation, Council adopts the Fees and Charges included within Proposed Fees and Charges Schedule for 2025-26 as per attachment 4.**

## **2.10. Elected Members' Fees and Allowances for 2025-26;**

**Council adopt the following Elected Members' fees and allowances, in accordance with the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal determination dated 4 April 2025:**

- a) Pursuant to Section 5.99 of the Local Government Act 1995, Council adopts the following annual attendance fee for payment of elected members in lieu of individual meeting attendance fees:**
  - Mayor                                 \$53,215**
  - Deputy Mayor                         \$35,480**
  - Councillors                             \$35,480**
  
- b) Pursuant to Section 5.99A of the Local Government Act 1995, Council adopts the following annual allowances for elected members:**
  - ICT Allowance                         \$3,500**
  
- c) Pursuant to Section 5.98(5) of the Local Government Act 1995, Council adopts the following annual allowance, to be paid in addition to the annual meeting attendance fee:**
  - Mayor                                     \$100,514**
  
- d) Pursuant to Section 5.98A of the Local Government Act 1995, Council adopts the following annual allowance, to be paid in addition to the annual meeting allowance fee:**
  - Deputy Mayor                         \$25,128**

**2.11. Elected Member superannuation contribution payment;**  
**Pursuant to Section 5.99B of the Local Government Act 1995, Council notes that Elected Members will receive a superannuation contribution payment in accordance with the *Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992*.**



- 2.12. Meeting attendance fee for independent committee members for 2025-26; Pursuant to Section 5.100 of the Local Government Act 1995, Council adopts the following meeting attendance fee (per meeting), as per the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal determination dated 4 April 2025:**
- |                                     |              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Independent Committee Member</b> | <b>\$450</b> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|

### **3.0 Material Variance**

**In accordance with regulation 34(5) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, and AASB 1031 Materiality, the level to be used in statements of financial activity in 2025-26 for reporting material variances shall be 10% together with minimum value of \$100,000.**



## **C2506-14 LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN**

<b>Meeting date:</b>	25 June 2025
<b>Responsible officer:</b>	Director City Business
<b>Voting requirements:</b>	Absolute Majority Required
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. City of Fremantle LTFP 2025-2035 Draft for Adoption

### **SUMMARY**

**The purpose of this report is to present the draft Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) 2025-2035 to Council for consideration.**

**The report recommends that Council adopts the LTFP 2025-2035 (attached) noting that the document will be updated and re-presented to Council for consideration annually alongside the draft annual budget for each respective year.**

### **BACKGROUND**

The City's previous LTFP was adopted in 2015. The plan covered the period from 2015 – 2025 and was based on the delivery of core objectives outlined within the City's previous Community Strategic Plan 2010 – 2015.

Council recently adopted a new Community Strategic Plan, an updated LTFP that reflects the City's current and future strategic objectives is being presented to Council for consideration.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The LTFP presented for adoption provides a framework for future budget setting and will form the basis of the annual budget process.

While the LTFP presents budget figures and project allocations for future years, the document remains subject to review each year to consider any current unforeseen future financial or community driven requirements.

This document and the content within it is indicative in nature and is used for longer term planning as part of the annual budget process. The annual statutory budget and annual financial statements remain as the documents that should be referred to for an accurate reflection of budget and actual expenditure for that respective financial year.



This plan presents a 10-year estimated outlook on future financial capacity for the City and should be considered in conjunction with the corporate business plan and any capital project/operational information that corresponds with the annual budget each year.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Section 5.56 of the Local Government Act 1995 requires Local Governments to prepare a plan for the future of the district. The Community Strategic Plan is the minimum requirement for meeting this obligation however the development of a Long-Term Financial Plan (10 Years) supports the delivery of the Community Strategic Plan and represents best practice as outlined in the Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSCI) Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

## **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

This item is in keeping with the City of Fremantle's Strategic Community Plan 2024 – 2034:

### **Resilient City – A focus on planning for a stronger and more resilient future**

- A financially resilient City meets the service delivery needs of the community.

### **Corporate - Lead and empower the organisation to deliver the vision of 'strong reputation, stronger future'**

- Enable the City to maintain legislative compliance and accountability for organisational decision making.
- Improve organisational performance and capability.

## **CONSULTATION**

In preparing the Long-Term Financial Plan 2025 - 2035 a thorough review of all base operating, capital and operating projects has been undertaken by Elected Members and Management through a series of long-term financial planning and budget workshops between February and June 2025.

## **OFFICER COMMENT**

The draft Long Term Financial Plan is a way of communicating the City's 10-year outlook on future financial planning for the City and should be read in conjunction with information provided as part of the annual budget each year.



This document provides a financial roadmap for the City over the next 10 years and maps out the key financial strategies and principles the City has adopted in managing its finances over the longer term.

The draft LTFP has been developed in line with the City's financial priorities and the objectives of the City's Community Strategic Plan 2024-34.

While it is intended that the City's LTFP remains dynamic and will be updated annually as part of the City's annual budget process, an overarching objective is to consistently maintain an accurate and balanced financial position for at least the first four years of a rolling 10-year outlook.

This enables current and prospective projects to be considered within a clear set of financial targets and operational capacity, up to four years ahead of the current budget year.

Years 5-10 of the plan will then afford some level of adaptability noting that community needs and economic conditions can evolve over those longer periods of time.

### **Economic Context**

WALGA's economic briefing for the March quarter of 2025 has identified the following key observations in relation to the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI). The LGCI is based on statewide cost data collected from across WA Local Governments.

- After a period of high increases in construction costs, followed by elevated wages growth, Local Government costs are starting to return to a more moderate level of growth across the board.
- While the rate of wage growth is beginning to ease, wages are expected to continue to grow as the WA labour market is the tightest in the nation and economic activity is forecast to support ongoing employment growth.
- Growth in construction costs has begun to stabilise however tight industry capacity and likely cost pressures in some components of construction raise the possibility of additional upward price pressures beyond current forecasts. Elevated levels of housing construction, encouraged by the State and Federal Governments, will increase demand for a limited supply of materials and labour.

Further economic analysis has been provided in attached document, and in the agenda report relating to the adoption of the annual budget.



## **Financial Priorities**

The past 5-10 years have seen the City achieve significant milestones in the completion of a once-in-a-generation revitalisation of the City Centre, while navigating unprecedented global economic conditions.

Western Australia has not been immune to these global economic conditions, and Local Governments have had to absorb the resulting increases to the cost-of-service delivery and wage growth.

While the City has been able to successfully rebuild its discretionary revenue sources over this challenging period and inflationary pressures are now beginning to ease, the reality remains that rates revenue accounts for more than 60% of the City of Fremantle's income. As such, a consistent approach to managing latent cost pressures and community demand for infrastructure and services will need to be considered as we continue to build on a sustainable financial future for the City.

In addition to managing and maintaining sustainable sources of revenue, the City must continue to invest in the maintenance and renewal of its existing assets in order to continue to make these assets and facilities available to the community. These assets – parks, footpaths, buildings, library, roads, facilities etc – are worth well over \$700 million and the City needs to ensure an adequate program to maintain them, as any delay may present a financial burden for coming future generations.

Subsequently a key objective for the City's forward financial plan is to close the gap on current renewal requirements.

Notwithstanding this the City must also continue to plan for ongoing investment into new projects and initiatives that add value for local communities both in the City Centre and across our suburbs. As such it is intended that we continue to build our financial capacity so that we can work towards investing annually in new projects that meet both the needs of our growing community and the ongoing operational requirements of service delivery.

In response to this our approach to annual (and longer term) budgeting remains predicated on the achievement of the following core objectives.

- Continue to deliver core services that meet the needs of our growing community.
- Invest in the upgrade and renewal of public infrastructure and amenity.



- Manage and maintain our parks, reserves & community infrastructure.

In line with the City's vision Strong Reputation. Stronger Future - Four key intersecting priorities have been identified to aid the City in maintaining a strong financial future. These include:

*Manage our capacity to deliver*

Due to recent economic challenges and subsequent impacts to the Australian Economy the City has faced challenges with resourcing, increasing cost of delivery and cost of construction. While inflation appears to have peaked and is easing, it may still take some time for lagging inflationary pressures to pass. We must therefore focus on managing our capacity to deliver, through aligning strategic workforce planning and the delivery of operations and projects.

*Prioritise renewal of our existing assets*

As part of providing facilities and services to the community, the City manages well over \$700 million worth of assets. With such a large asset base the City must maintain a focus on increasing its investment into the renewal of its assets, so that they remain functional and accessible by the community and its future generations.

*Plan for the future*

The City has now completed the delivery of community infrastructure that has driven a once in a generation renewal of Fremantle's City Centre. Notwithstanding the significant benefits that have been achieved as a result, the City must now continue to focus on planning for future investment into the community by growing the City Centre's residential population and investing in the outer suburbs. To do this we must continue to grow the balance of financial reserves to fund the delivery of future capital investment into the suburbs, and delivery of capital projects that support and attract major residential development into the City Centre.

*Grow our funding streams*

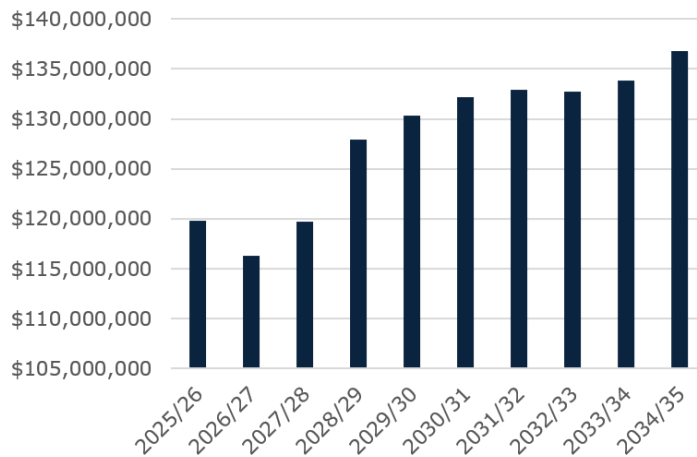
As the City seeks to grow expenditure on the renewal of its assets, improve the operational capacity required to achieve this, and grow its reserves, it must do so via managing existing costs and generating revenue through multiple funding channels rather than relying solely on the City's rate base.



To do so we must seek to grow discretionary revenue and funding sources while also more effectively prioritising existing operational expenditure in line with the City’s strategic objectives and capacity to deliver.

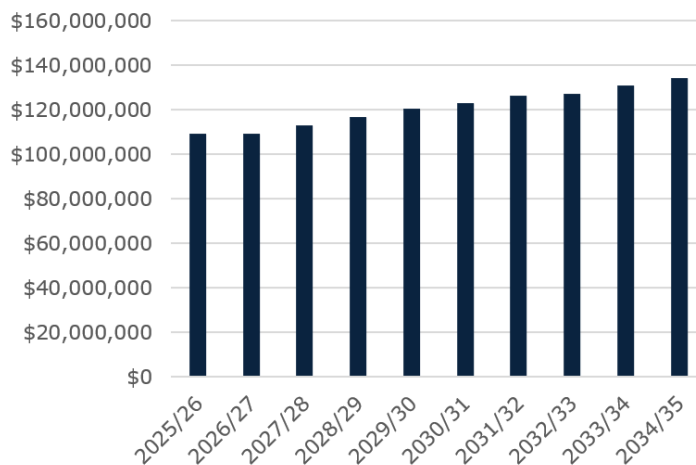
**Forward Trends – Operating and Capital**

The current 10-year outlook presents an increasing investment into service delivery across operating areas.



Operating Expenditure

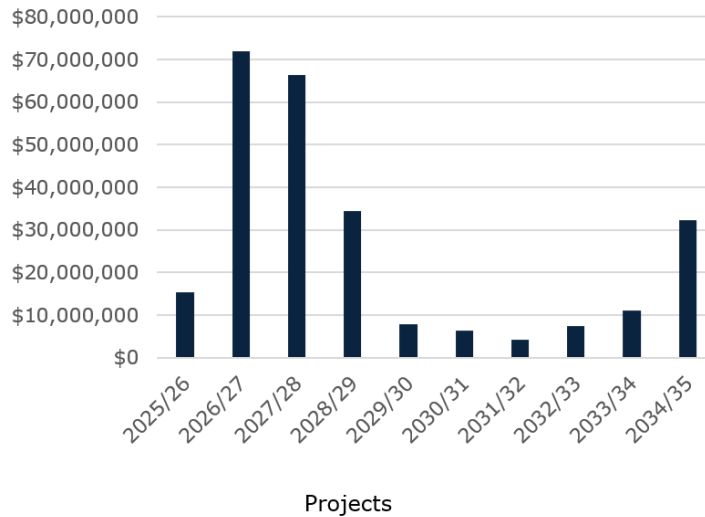
To support the increase in operating activity the plan also identifies a steady increase in operating revenue to support this growth.



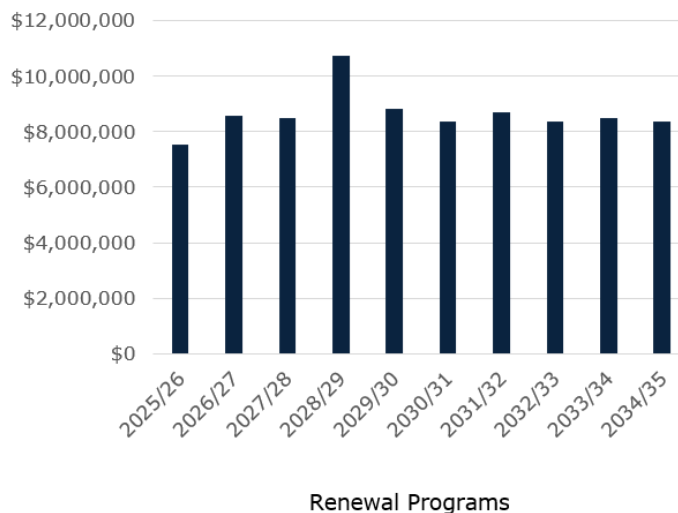
Operating Revenue



Trends in capital expenditure demonstrate a focus on the delivery of existing projects that are currently planned for years 1-4, with a return to more modest investment in new projects beyond year 4 to support the ongoing objective of increasing investment into renewal programs.



As a result a strong increase in renewal program expenditure is achieved year on year through to year 4 of the plan, with an easing in this increase in later years to allow for more capital projects to come online from year 7 as the community grows and evolves over the next 10 years.





## Capital Projects

The City delivers a significant program of capital works annually comprising of project delivery and an ongoing program of upgrades and renewal for our existing assets. A list of major capital projects and programs currently planned for the next 10 years have been provided in the attached plan, as well as profiles on significant multi-year capital projects and programs being delivered across the community.

It should be noted that timing and costs associated with projects listed in plan are estimates only and may be subject to change pending changes in community need or economic conditions.

A number of multi-year master-planned projects have been scheduled over the next 10-year period in line with community need and asset management requirements. These projects (as profiled in the attached plan) are in varying stages of scoping and development however the plan provides an estimated time of delivery for each project along with the financial allocation currently included in the Long-Term Financial Plan. Key highlights are included in the table below:

Overview	Y1 25-26	Y2 26-27	Y3 27-28	Y4 28-29	Y5 29-30	Y6 30-31	Y7 31-32	Y8 32-33	Y9 33-34	Y10 34-35
Booyeembara Park Masterplan Projects	\$3.2m	\$0.4m	0.25m	\$0.7m	\$1.05m	\$0.64m				
Hilton Park Masterplan Projects	\$2.3m	\$5.75m				\$4.6m		\$3.6m	\$9.2m	\$5.6m
Samson Park Masterplan Projects	\$0.85m	\$1.79m								
Walvalup Koort Masterplan Projects	\$0.9m	\$1.55m		\$0.2m		\$0.05m	\$0.1m	\$2.05m	\$1.25m	\$1.25m
Stevens Reserve Masterplan Projects	\$0.5m					\$0.25m	\$0.9m			
Fremantle Town Hall Projects	\$0.9m	\$2.0m		\$1.4m	\$2.4m					
North Fremantle Foreshore Projects		\$1.0m	\$1.7m	\$0.9m						
Road Safety Projects	\$1.04m	\$0.3m	\$0.42m	\$0.25m	\$0.02m	\$0.02m	\$0.56m	\$0.52m	\$0.52m	\$0.52m
Cantonment Hill Masterplan Projects				\$0.13m	\$1.4m					
South Beach Masterplan Projects		\$2.15m					\$1.5m			
Bike Plan – Hampton Road and Ord Street					\$0.5m	\$0.5m	\$0.5m	\$0.5m		

More broadly the City continually plans for and delivers a range of new capital initiatives and projects that aid in providing new facilities for the community as well as improving public amenity, open spaces and supporting infrastructure. These projects are delivered in addition to the ongoing capital renewal program, and are typically driven by community need, growth and demand.



The LFTP also includes a full 10-year list of projects (inclusive of the previously mentioned highlights) that have been developed based upon our core financial priorities. This includes appropriately managing our capacity to deliver and continuing to focus on the delivery of future capital investment into the suburbs, and delivery of projects that support and attract major residential development into the City Centre.

The project list provided in the LFTP may be subject to change pending shifting community need over the longer term, however, it provides the City's best estimate on the prioritisation and estimated cost of future projects that are currently in the pipeline.

### **Capital Programs**

In addition to capital projects, the City's capital renewal program relates to the ongoing management and replacement of Council infrastructure and is predominantly focused on maintaining, upgrading, or replacing assets like roads, buildings, and recreational facilities to ensure they remain accessible and functional for use by the community.

The City manages well over \$700 million worth of assets, and as previously mentioned a key focus area for the City's long term financial plan is to increase its investment into the renewal of its assets, so that they remain functional and accessible by the community and its future generations.

The LFTP outlines the City's planned investment into its ongoing renewal programs across the next decade, and indicates growing investment into critical program areas such as:

- Building Maintenance and Renewal
- Drainage
- Footpaths
- Parks & reserves
- Plant, Equipment and Vehicles, Road safety and maintenance
- Street Lighting

### **Future Transformational Projects**

While these projects are currently still in conception phase and are yet to be fully scoped, the City is currently undertaking feasibility and business case work on three significant projects. These projects are currently reflected within the Long-Term Financial Plan however following the completion of business cases and feasibility studies, the costings and timings may be subject to change and will require further consideration by Council before they progress.



The LTFP document includes estimated timings and contributions associated with the redevelopment of Fremantle Oval, the City of Fremantle Depot, and the Fremantle Leisure Centre. The information presented in the document provides the community with an insight into future years of the plan should feasibility and business cases identify the projects as opportunities that should be pursued.

The attached document includes content only and has been provided for the purpose of Council adoption. Upon Council adoption of the document, a graphically designed published version will be created and made available via the City's website.

### **VOTING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

Absolute Majority Required

### **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

**Council adopt the City of Fremantle Long Term Financial Plan 2025 – 2035, as provided in attachment 1.**



## **C2506-15 DELEGATED AUTHORITY REGISTER REVIEW 2025-2026**

<b>Meeting date:</b>	25 June 2025
<b>Responsible officer:</b>	Manager Governance
<b>Voting requirements:</b>	Absolute Majority Required
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. Draft Register of Delegated Authority 2025-26 (without sub delegations)

### **SUMMARY**

**Council is required to undertake a review of its delegated authority each financial year. All delegations have been reviewed to ensure that the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and officers have the appropriate discretion to exercise delegated authority under the relevant legislation.**

**This report recommends that Council acknowledge that a review has been undertaken and revoke all current delegated authority and adopt the reviewed delegations contained in the Delegated Authority Register 2025/2026, as shown in attachment 1.**

### **BACKGROUND**

In accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act), Council is required to review the authority it has delegated at least once every financial year. The City's current Delegated Authority Register was last reviewed and adopted by Council on 26 June 2024.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Several delegations provide the ability for the CEO and officers to exercise power to approve tenders or commit funding. These delegations are only provided when within policy and adopted budgets set by Council.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Section 5.42 of the *Local Government Act 1995* prescribes that Council may delegate certain powers and duties to the Chief Executive Officer.

A delegation authorises a person or class of persons to exercise powers that the Council would ordinarily exercise. The City of Fremantle has established a Delegated Authority Register to improve the timeliness and efficiency of decision making. In some instances, Acts and Regulations require that Council make a direct appointment to a person or class of persons. These acts do not contain a provision to allow the CEO to make a sub delegation.



For example, the *Food Act 2008* allows an Enforcement Agency (Local Government) to delegate authority but does not allow the CEO to sub-delegate that authority.

In addition, where legislation provides for the direct delegation to authorise a person or class of persons by other agencies or decision makers, no delegation is required from the local government.

For example, The *Environmental Protection Act 1986* allows for the appointment and the granting of delegated authority directly to local government Environmental Health Officers by the Department of Environment Regulation.

Where an officer of the local government is authorised to perform a function under an Act or Regulation but has no discretion in how they perform that function, a delegation is not required. This is known as "acting through".

For example, if a provision of an Act specified that a local government must refuse an application that does not contain the applicants' name, there is no need for Council to provide delegation to officers to refuse applications for this reason as officers are unable to exercise any discretion, they must refuse the application.

## **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

This item is in keeping with the City of Fremantle's Strategic Community Plan 2024 – 2034:

### **Corporate - Lead and empower the organisation to deliver the vision of 'strong reputation, stronger future'**

- Enable the City to maintain legislative compliance and accountability for organisational decision making.

## **CONSULTATION**

An internal consultation was undertaken to ensure accuracy and to address all 'best practice' needs.

## **OFFICER COMMENT**

A thorough review has been undertaken of the City's Delegated Authority Register with the intention of producing an up to date, comprehensive and workable register that complies with relevant legislation and meets the operational needs of the City of Fremantle.

All amendments to the Delegated Authority Register have been shown in red and green text in Attachment 1.



The table below provides a summary of amendments made to the Delegated Authority Register 2025/2026, and minor amendments have been made to correct legislation references, remove position titles and update to some reporting requirements to align with administration processes and legislative requirements.

<b>Delegation</b>	<b>Amendment</b>
2.14 Additional powers when notice is given to the owner or occupier of land under Section 3.25 <i>(page 27)</i>	Add reference to section 3.25 of this delegation. This is an administrative change.
2.15 Particular things local governments can do on land that is not local government property <i>(page 28)</i>	Added reference to schedule 3.2 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> in the delegation. This is an administrative change.
3.25 <i>Short-Term Rental Accommodation Act 2024</i> Designated Officer <i>(page 64 )</i>	This new delegation has been added for the purpose of issuing a certificate in accordance with section 29 of the <i>Short-Term Rental Accommodation Act 2024</i> .
Multiple delegations	Removed position titles that are shown in the delegation table. Position titles are shown in the “delegated to” section. This is an administrative change.
Multiple delegations	Referenced council policies in the “limitations on delegation” sections. This is an administrative change to assist delegated officers when using their delegation.

**VOTING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

Absolute Majority Required

**OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

**Council:**

- 1. Revoke the Delegated Authority Register 2024-2025 and all Council delegations contained within; and**
- 2. Adopt the Delegated Authority Register 2025-2026 and all Council delegations contained within, as provided in Attachment 1.**



## **C2506-16 STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS MAY 2025**

**Meeting date:** 25 June 2025  
**Responsible officer:** A/Manager Financial Services  
**Voting requirements:** Simple Majority Required  
**Attachments:** 1. Investment Report - May 2025

### **SUMMARY**

**This report outlines the investment of surplus funds for the month ending 31 May 2025 and provides information on these investments for Council consideration.**

**This report recommends that Council receive the Investment Report for the month ended 31 May 2025 as provided in Attachment 1.**

**The investment report provides a snapshot of the City's investment portfolio and includes information as at 31 May 2025 in relation to:**

- **Portfolio details;**
- **Portfolio credit framework;**
- **Portfolio liquidity;**
- **Portfolio fossil fuel summary;**
- **Interest income; and**
- **Investing activities.**

### **BACKGROUND**

In accordance with the Investment Policy adopted by Council, the City of Fremantle invests its surplus funds, long term cash, current assets and other funds in authorised investments as outlined in the policy.

Due to timing differences between receiving revenue and the expenditure of funds, surplus funds may be held by the City for a period of time. To maximise returns and maintain a low level of credit risk, the City invests these funds into appropriately rated and liquid investments, until the City requires the money for operational expenditure.

The City's investment policy seeks to limit investments in financial institutions which support, either directly or indirectly, fossil fuel companies, while balancing compliance with the Investment Policy, and achieving a suitable return on those investments.



## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Investment interest earned year to date is \$2,674,659 against a full year budget of \$2,349,359. Interest earnings year to date are higher than YTD budget by \$325,300. The strong investment performance is due to the attractive interest rates in the current market.

At its meeting on 20 May 2025, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) cut the official cash rate by 25 basis points to 3.85%, marking its second rate reduction this year and the first time the cash rate has fallen below 4% since 2023. The decision reflects growing confidence that inflation is now tracking sustainably within the Bank's 2–3% target range. The Board acknowledged ongoing weaknesses in economic activity, with GDP rising just 0.2% in the March quarter and 1.3% over the year, alongside softening household consumption and moderating wage growth in most sectors. However, the Bank remains cautious amid persistent inflation in essential goods and services, which could delay further easing if price pressures persist. The RBA emphasised its commitment to a data-driven approach, noting that further adjustments to the cash rate will depend on the trajectory of inflation, labour market conditions, and overall economic momentum. The next monetary policy meeting is scheduled for 8 July 2025.

The City's investment portfolio is invested in highly secure investments with a low level of risk yielding a weighted average rate of return of 4.83% for the month of May 2025. The City's actual portfolio return in the last 12 months is 4.19%, comparing on par with the benchmark Bloomberg AusBond Bill Index reference rate of 4.42% (refer to Attachment 1 point 8).

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The following legislation is relevant to this report:

- *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* Regulation 19 – Management of Investments; and
- *Trustee Act 1962* (Part 3)

Authorised Deposit-taking Institutions are authorised under the *Banking Act 1959* and are subject to Prudential Standards which are overviewed by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA).

## **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

This item is in keeping with the City of Fremantle's Strategic Community Plan 2024 – 2034:



**Corporate - Lead and empower the organisation to deliver the vision of 'strong reputation, stronger future'**

- Support the City through financial, procurement and revenue functions whilst ensuring legislative compliance and providing excellent customer service.

**CONSULTATION**

Nil.

**OFFICER COMMENT**

The City's Investment Portfolio Manager has provided a comprehensive Investment Report for the month ending 31 May 2025 which can be viewed in the Attachment. A summary of the investment report is provided below.

**1. Portfolio Details**

As at 31 May 2025, the City's investment portfolio totalled \$52,577,702. The market value of this investment was \$53,446,344 at that time, which takes into account accrued interest.

The investment portfolio is made up of:

Cash Investments (<= 3 months)	\$9.97m
Term Deposits (> 3 months)	\$42.61m
TOTAL	\$52.58m

Of which:

Unrestricted cash	\$31.62m
Restricted cash (Reserve Funds)	\$20.96m
TOTAL	\$52.58m

The current amount of \$31,620,002 held as unrestricted cash represents 32.70% of the total adopted budget for operating revenue (\$96,709,316).

**2. Portfolio Credit Framework**

The City's Investment policy determines the maximum amount to be invested in any one Tier, or any one financial institution within a Tier, based on the credit rating of the financial institution. Council adopted amendments to this policy at its Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 November 2020, and the current adopted Counterparty Credit Framework is noted below.



Tier	Allocation	Allocation %	Maximum Allocation %	% Used of Maximum Allocation	% Available of Maximum Allocation	% Exceeded of Maximum Allocation
Tier 1	42,066,841.49	80.01%	100.00%	80.01%	19.99%	0.00%
Tier 2	510,860.94	0.97%	60.00%	1.62%	98.38%	0.00%
Tier 3	10,000,000.00	19.02%	35.00%	54.34%	45.66%	0.00%
Tier 4	0.00	0.00%	15.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
52,577,702.43						
Values used in the above calculations exclude interest for term deposits and other simple interest securities.						

### 3. Portfolio Credit Framework limits

The Portfolio Credit Framework limits prescribe the limit of investments that may be made within any Tier of financial institutions. The maximum allocation to be invested in each Tier, and the City’s actual investment allocation in those Tiers as at 31 May 2025, is outlined below. It shows that the distribution of the City’s investments across the four Tiers is compliant with the City’s investment policy.

Within each Tier, the Counterparty Credit Framework limits prescribe the limit of investments that may be made with any one financial institution. The maximum percentage of investments to be held with any one financial institution, within a given Tier, are outlined below.

#### Counterparty credit framework

Investments are not to exceed the following percentages of average annual funds invested with any one financial institution and consideration should be given to the relationship between credit rating and interest rate.

Credit quality	Maximum % of total investments
Tier 1 (excl. AAA government) AAA to AA-	45%
Tier 2 A+ to A-	25%
Tier 3 BBB+ to BBB-	10%
Tier 4 Unrated	(\$1m)

The City’s funds invested as at 31 May 2025, relative to the Counterparty Credit Framework limits were as follows:



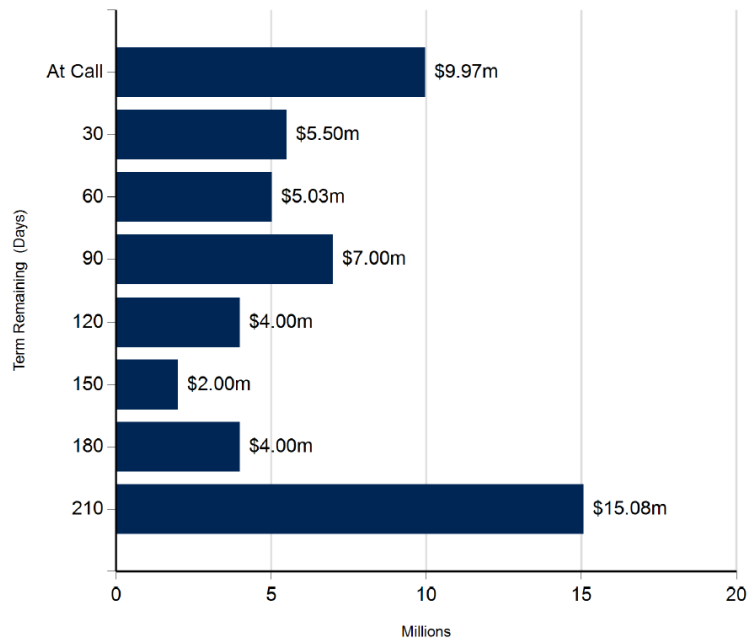
As shown in the above graph, the portfolio was compliant with the issuer trading limit.

#### **4. Portfolio Liquidity Indicator**

The City’s investments are to be made in a manner to ensure sufficient liquidity to meet all reasonably anticipated cash flow requirements, without incurring significant costs due to the unanticipated sale of an investment.

The below graph provides details on the maturity timing of the City’s investment portfolio as at 31 May 2025. Currently, all investments will mature in one year or less.

**Face Value by Term Remaining**



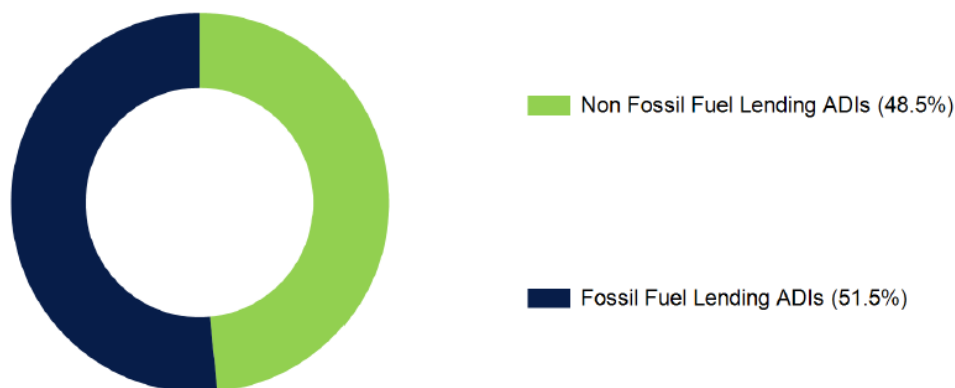


## **5. Portfolio Summary by Fossil Fuels Lending Authorised Deposit-Taking Institutions (ADIs)**

To support the City's ability to undertake greater fossil fuel divestment, a review of the Investment Policy was presented and adopted by Council on 25 November 2020 which incorporated a minor change to the investment framework to increase the percentages allocated to Tier 3 and Tier 4 categories, allowing greater flexibility. Since December 2020 investments have been made in accordance with the revised policy to increase the percentage invested in "Green Investments"; being ADIs that do not lend to industries engaged in the exploration for, or production of, fossil fuels (Non-Fossil Fuel Lending ADIs).

As at 31 May 2025, \$25.5m (48.5%) of the City's portfolio was invested in "Green Investments".

**Fossil Fuel vs  
Non Fossil Fuel  
Lending ADI**



Refer to Attachment 1 (Note 7) for details on which financial institutions these investments are held in.

### *Risk Assessment*

In line with an ongoing risk assessment of the Global and Australian banking sectors, the City continues to implement the following investment strategies:

Given the current financial stability risk assessment the City will implement the following investment strategies:

1. Diversify investment portfolio across different banks - continue to prioritise higher rated banks (Tier 1 & 2) when it comes to investment activity. If a non-fossil fuel lender is providing competitive rates that will generate a suitable return, and fall within a tier 1 or 2 category, these lenders will be prioritised.
2. Implement risk management strategies to protect the investment portfolio against downside risks - The City will prioritise low risk investment activity



across higher tier banks in order to limit the City's exposure to the risk being faced across the sector.

3. Regular review and rebalance of investment portfolio to ensure alignment with the investment goals, risk tolerance and market conditions.

## **6. Interest Income for Matured Investments**

Per Attachment 1 (Note 9), interest income earned during May 2025 from matured investments was \$200,843.

## **7. Investing Activities**

In May 2025, there was one new term deposit of \$2m. Full details of the institutions invested in, interest rates, number of days and maturity date for investments held as at 31 May 2025 are provided in Attachment 1 (Note 10).

## **VOTING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority Required

## **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

**Council receive the Investment Report for the month ending 31 May 2025 as provided in Attachment 1.**



## **C2506-17 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS - 31 MAY 2025**

<b>Meeting date:</b>	25 June 2025
<b>Responsible officer:</b>	A/Manager Financial Services
<b>Voting requirements:</b>	Simple Majority Required
<b>Attachments:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Schedule of Payments and Listing - May 2025</li><li>2. Purchase Card Transaction Report - May 2025</li><li>3. Summary of Payments and Listings - May 2025</li></ol>

### **SUMMARY**

**The purpose of this report is to present to Council a list of accounts paid by the Chief Executive Officer under delegated authority for the month ending 31 May 2025 as required by the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*.**

**This report recommends that Council accept the list of payments made under delegated authority and accept the detailed transaction listing of Purchase Card expenditure.**

### **BACKGROUND**

Council has delegated, to the Chief Executive Officer, the exercise of its power to make payments from the City's municipal or trust fund. In accordance with regulation 13 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, a list of accounts paid under delegation for the month of May 2025, is provided within Attachments 1 and 2.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

A total of \$7,841,159.41 in payments were made in the month of May 2025, from the City's municipal and trust fund accounts.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Regulation 13 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* states:

13. *Payments from municipal fund or trust fund by CEO, CEO's duties as to etc.*
  - (1) *If the local government has delegated to the CEO the exercise of its power to make payments from the municipal fund or the trust fund, a list of accounts paid by the CEO is to be prepared each month showing for each account paid since the last such list was prepared —*
    - (a) *the payee's name; and*



- (b) the amount of the payment; and*
  - (c) the date of the payment; and*
  - (d) sufficient information to identify the transaction.*
- (2) A list of accounts for approval to be paid is to be prepared each month showing*
  - (a) for each account which requires council authorisation in that month*
    - 
    - (i) the payee’s name;*
    - (ii) the amount of the payment; and*
    - (iii) sufficient information to identify the transaction; and*
  - (b) the date of the meeting of the council to which the list is to be presented.*
- (3) A list prepared under sub-regulation (1) or (2) is to be —*
  - (a) presented to the council at the next ordinary meeting of the council after the list is prepared; and*
  - (b) recorded in the minutes of that meeting.*

## **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

This item is in keeping with the City of Fremantle’s Strategic Community Plan 2024 – 2034:

### **Corporate - Lead and empower the organisation to deliver the vision of 'strong reputation, stronger future'**

- Support the City through financial, procurement and revenue functions whilst ensuring legislative compliance and providing excellent customer service.

## **CONSULTATION**

Nil.

## **OFFICER COMMENT**

The following table summarises the payments for the month ending 31 May 2025, by payment type:

<b>Payment Type</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>
<i>Cheque / EFT / Direct Debit/International Payments</i>	<i>\$4,762,401.87</i>
<i>Purchase card transactions</i>	<i>\$42,528.15</i>
<i>Salary / Wages / Superannuation</i>	<i>\$3,036,229.39</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,841,159.41</b>



Attachment 1 provides a detailed listing of the payments by Cheque, EFT and Direct Debit, while Attachment 2 provides a detailed listing of Purchase Card transactions for the month ending 31 May 2025.

## **VOTING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority Required

## **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

### **Council:**

- 1. Accept the list of payments made under delegated authority, totalling \$4,762,401.87 for the month ending 31 May 2025 including the Cheque /EFT/ Direct Debits/ International Payments, as contained within Attachment 1.**
- 2. Accept the detailed transaction listing of Purchase Card expenditure, totalling \$42,528.15 for the month ending 31 May 2025, as contained within Attachment 2.**
- 3. Accept the Salary / Wages / Superannuation payments made under delegated authority, totalling \$3,036,229.39 for the month ending 31 May 2025, as contained within Attachment 3.**



## C2506-18 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT MAY 2025

**Meeting date:** 25 June 2025  
**Responsible officer:** A/Manager Financial Services  
**Voting requirements:** Simple Majority Required  
**Attachments:** 1. Monthly Financial Report - May 2025

### SUMMARY

The monthly financial report for the period ending 31 May 2025 has been prepared and tabled in accordance with the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*.

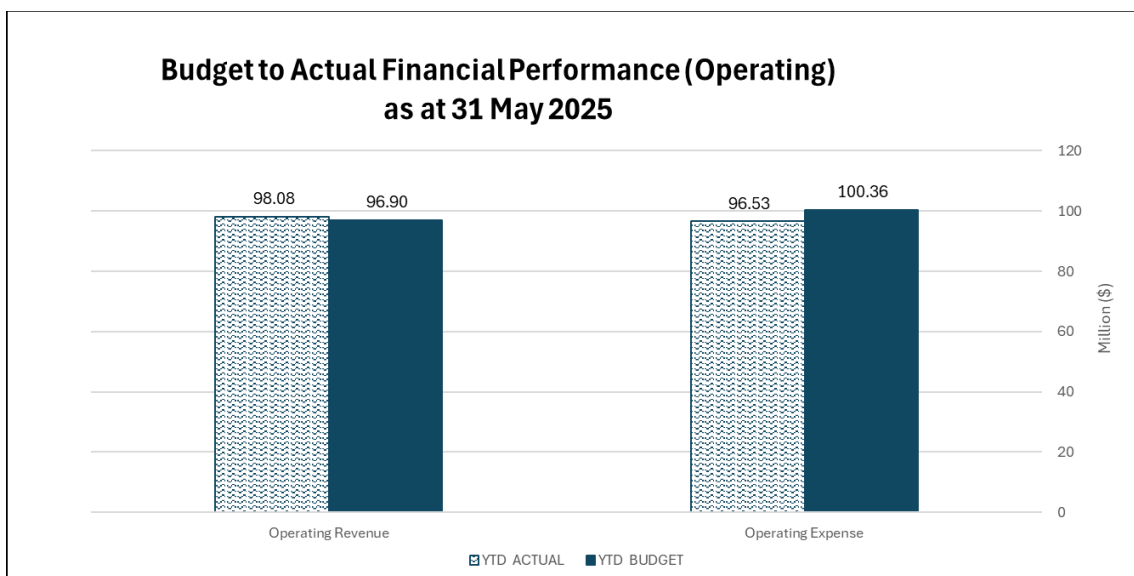
This report provides an analysis of financial performance up to 31 May 2025 based on the following statements:

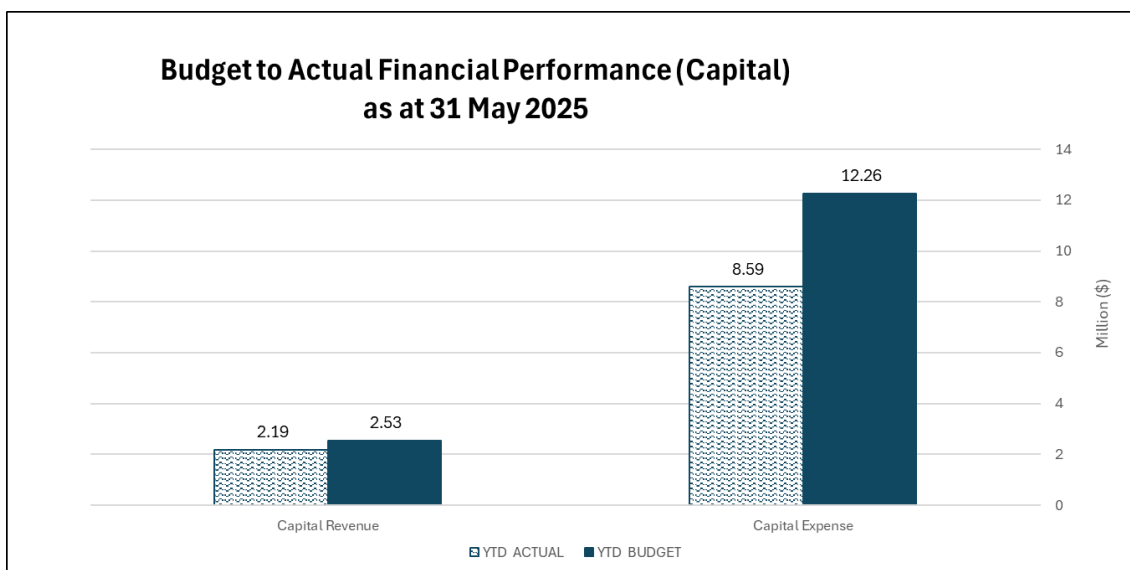
- Statement of Comprehensive Income by Nature;
- Statement of Financial Activity by Nature and by Directorate; and
- Statement of Financial Position with Net Current Assets.

This financial report for the period ended 31 May 2025 is prepared considering accrued interest on borrowings (loans) and prepaid insurance premiums.

### BACKGROUND

The following charts and table provide a high-level summary of the Council's year to date financial performance as at 31 May 2025.





**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY – BY NATURE FOR THE PERIOD TO 31 MAY 2025**

The table to follow provides a summary of the year-to-date Statement of Financial Activity by Nature, to 31 May 2025. The detailed Statement can be found in the attached Monthly Financial Report.

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME – BY NATURE AND TYPE FOR THE PERIOD TO 31 MAY 2025**

As detailed in the Statement of Comprehensive Income by Nature and Type, operating income and expenses have varied to the Adopted Budget as follows:

Description	YTD Amended Budget \$	YTD Actual \$	Variance \$	Variance %
<b>Operating Income</b>				
<b>Rates (including Annual Levy)</b>	63,216,761	63,174,583	(42,178)	(0.07%)
<b>Service Charges</b>	8,804	8,804	-	0.00%
<b>Op. Grants, Subsidies &amp; Contributions</b>	3,650,017	2,904,823	(745,194)	(20.42%)
<b>Fees and Charges</b>	25,141,604	26,071,431	929,827	3.70%
<b>Interest Earnings</b>	2,884,359	3,254,108	369,749	12.82%
<b>Reimbursement Income</b>	1,245,935	1,528,343	282,408	22.67%
<b>Other Income</b>	729,538	1,099,838	370,300	50.76%
<b>Total</b>	96,877,018	98,041,930	1,164,912	1.20%
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
<b>Employee Costs</b>	(42,435,889)	(41,387,067)	1,048,822	2.47%



<b>Employee costs - Agency Labour</b>	(1,729,058)	(1,979,964)	(250,906)	(14.51%)
<b>Materials and Contracts</b>	(31,196,402)	(29,047,349)	2,149,052	6.89%
<b>Depreciation - Non-Current Assets</b>	(20,470,643)	(19,850,980)	619,663	3.03%
<b>Interest Expenses</b>	(362,601)	(366,532)	(3,930)	(1.08%)
<b>Utility Charges</b>	(1,849,820)	(1,766,681)	83,139	4.49%
<b>Insurance Expenses</b>	(1,072,931)	(973,443)	99,488	9.27%
<b>Other Expenditure</b>	(1,208,042)	(1,037,680)	170,362	14.10%
<b>Total</b>	(100,325,386)	(96,409,697)	3,915,689	3.90%

Further explanation of material variances can be found within the Officer's Comment section of this report.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

This report is provided to enable Council to assess how revenue and expenditure are tracking against budget, and to identify any budget issues of which the Council should be informed.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 34 requires a monthly financial activity statement and an explanation of any material variances to be prepared and presented to an Ordinary Council meeting.

### **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

This item is in keeping with the City of Fremantle's Strategic Community Plan 2024 – 2034:

#### **Corporate - Lead and empower the organisation to deliver the vision of 'strong reputation, stronger future'**

- Support the City through financial, procurement and revenue functions whilst ensuring legislative compliance and providing excellent customer service.

### **CONSULTATION**

Nil.



## **OFFICER COMMENT**

### **Summary of financial performance**

As at the end of 31 May 2025 the City demonstrated strong financial performance with a closing funding position of \$21.02m.

In summary, as at the end of May 2025, the current closing position exceeds the YTD amended budget by \$9.05m. This is mainly due to favourable variances against the year-to-date budget across the following areas:

- Increased revenue from Fees and Charges of \$0.93m;
- Increased revenue from Interest earnings of \$0.37m;
- Increased revenue from Other revenue of \$0.36m
- Operating expenditure underspend of \$1.04m from Employee Cost;
- Operating expenditure underspend of \$2.15m from Material and Contracts;
- Capital expenditure underspend of \$3.68m.

These favourable variances are offset by:

- Decreased revenue of \$0.75m recognised for Operating grants and contributions.
- Decreased revenue of \$0.41m recognised for Capital grants and contributions.

### **Explanation of Material Variances & YTD Performance**

In accordance with regulation 34(5) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* and AASB 1031 Materiality, Council adopted the level to be used in Statements of Financial Activity by Nature in the 2024-25 financial year for reporting material variances as 10% together with the minimum value of \$100,000 (Refer Item C2407-10 from Council meeting on 10 July 2024).




The material variance thresholds are adopted annually by Council and indicate whether actual expenditure or revenue varies materially from the year-to-date budget. The following is an explanation of significant operating and capital variances to budget as identified in the Statements of Financial Activity by Nature.

Building on the favourable opening net position for the year, the following items explain the City's major variances in operating performance for this financial year, as highlighted in the year-to-date Financial Activity Statement as at 31 May 2025.



Description	Variance Amount (\$)	Comment
<b>Operating Grants, Subsidies and Contributions</b>	<b>(745,194)</b>	<b>▼ (20.42%)</b>
<b>Major Variances:</b>		
Deliver Early Development Census Program	(117,159)	Grant received for 2 years, Unspent portion to be recognised in line with expenditure.
Design and construct - Green linkage projects	(229,353)	Income received to be recognised in line with expenditure.
Operate Fremantle arts centre	(338,326)	2nd instalment to be received in June.
<b>Interest Earnings</b>	<b>369,749</b>	<b>▲ 12.82%</b>
<b>Major Variances:</b>		
Receive investment income - Unrestricted Funds	325,300	Higher interest rates have resulted in higher interest earnings.
<b>Reimbursement Income</b>	<b>282,408</b>	<b>▲ 22.67 %</b>
<b>Major Variances:</b>		
Conduct South lawn events	82,510	Production charges recoverable from promoters.
Containers for Change	64,476	Higher container volumes received.
Administer Long Service Leave transfers	45,495	Recoupment share of LSL paid to employees from former employers.
<b>Other Revenue</b>	<b>361,422</b>	<b>▲ 49.54 %</b>
<b>Major Variances:</b>		
Fremantle Art Centre - Water damage - Insurance	279,582	Insurance settlement for Water damage, expenses incurred in previous year.
<b>Agency Labour</b>	<b>(250,906)</b>	<b>▼ (14.51%)</b>
<b>Major Variances:</b>		
Waste and Cleansing Team	(356,748)	Higher utilisation of agency labour hire to cover 7



<b>Description</b>	<b>Variance Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Comment</b>
		vacancies. Offset by unspent salaries.
<b>Other Expenditure</b>	<b>170,362</b>	 <b>14.10%</b>
<b>Major Variances:</b>		
Contribute to the operations of Regional Resource Recovery Group	119,174	RRG Waste Education program (RecycleRight) has ceased.
Allocate community development funding	39,675	2nd round of community development grants opened. \$85K committed to date.
<b>Capital Grants, Subsidies and Contributions</b>	<b>(414,305)</b>	 <b>(17.05%)</b>
<b>Major Variances:</b>		
Ken Allen Reserve Sports Lighting Upgrade	(108,798)	Receival of the Grant delayed to align with project stages.
City Centre - Walyalup Koort KBN Public Artwork	(279,684)	1st instalment of grant received. Works will commence in 25-26.
<b>Payment for Property, Plant and Equipment</b>	<b>1,336,022</b>	 <b>23.69%</b>
<b>Major Variances:</b>		
Design and construct -South Beach -Changerooms	700,037	Works underway, invoice timing variance against forecast spend.
Town Hall - Balcony	221,627	Project complete. Final invoicing in progress.
Market St / Collie St - New Public Toilet	120,940	Ablution unit order placed, awaiting invoicing as manufacturing progresses.
Design and construct - Hilton Park Precinct	119,540	Project budget expenditure delayed to align with expenditure of the successful Thriving Suburbs Grant.
CBD Toilet provision Beach Street	60,871	Unit delivery June 2025. Awaiting leasing approval from PTA to proceed with installation.



<b>Description</b>	<b>Variance Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Payment for Construction of Infrastructure</b>	<b>2,244,245</b>	<b>▲ 36.05%</b>
<b>Major Variances:</b>		
Renewal Program - Irrigation	375,072	Carry forward: Gil Fraser Irrigation delayed to align with September 2025 sporting seasonal changeover. Parmelia Park Upgrade Tender released in April.
Black Spot - Stevens & Amherst St Roundabout Construction	280,934	Carry forward: Main Roads WA has approved an extension. Delays due to utility provider underground service relocation works.
Renewal Program - Playgrounds	231,819	Carry forward: Salentina Ridge Playground awarded, works commence on site in July. Parmelia Park Tender closed in April and is under evaluation.
Samson Park -Construct Sellenger Ave parking, improved path	206,908	Works commenced on site in April 2025, invoice timing variance.
Ken Allen Reserve Sports Lighting Upgrade	203,125	Project tender released in May following receipt of final lighting design.
Program - Street Lighting	200,000	Carry forward: Lighting materials delivered.
Road safety - Low-cost urban road safety upgrades	190,250	Carry forward: Community consultation has been completed. Projects are scheduled to commence in the 2025/26.
South Beach - additional parking provision	164,153	Carry forward: commence once landscaping works at South Beach are completed.
Program - Drainage	116,893	Drainage project works scheduled to be completed by end June 2025.
Program - Footpaths	91,138	Leake Street footpath upgrade planned to be completed by end June 2025.



<b>Description</b>	<b>Variance Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Walyalup Koort Public Realm	50,000	Public realm integration with KBN Artwork project.
Program - Bus Stops	50,000	Carry forward: Delay in receiving the quote and design from PTA.
<b>Transfer from Reserves (Restricted) - Capital</b>	<b>1,570,226</b>	<b>▲ 258.14%</b>
<b>Major Variances:</b>		
Design and construct -South Beach -Changerooms	1,799,963	Reserve funds released, budget phasing in June.

### **Accounting methods**

The City manages its finances in line with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1995*, associated regulations and Australian accounting standards.

The City carries out accounting on both an accrual basis and a cash basis.

Accrual accounting requires accounting transactions to be recognised and recorded when they occur, regardless of whether payment/receipt has been made at that time, in accordance with the Australian Accounting standards.

The City accounts for Rates, Service Charges, Interest income on term deposits, Insurance expenses and Interest expenses on borrowings (loans) & leases on an accrual basis.

The remainder of income and expenditure items are recognised and recorded at the period they are encountered.

### **VOTING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority Required

### **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

**Council receive the Monthly Financial Reports, as provided in Attachment 1, including the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Activity, Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Net Current Assets, for the period ended 31 May 2025.**



## Committee reports

### **ARMC2506-1 APPOINTMENT OF THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND DEPUTY PRESIDING MEMBER OF THE AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Meeting date:** 25 June 2025  
**Responsible officer:** Manager Governance  
**Voting requirements:** Absolute Majority Required  
**Attachments:** Nil

#### **SUMMARY**

**As part of the reforms to the *Local Government Act 1995 (the Act)*, changes to section 5.12 of the Act now require the presiding members and deputy presiding members of committee to be appointed by absolute majority by Council. Transitional provision 67 and 68 of the Act, relating to the *Local Government Amendment Act 2024*, require the appointments to be made no later than 1 July 2025.**

**This report recommends that Council appoint the existing Audit and Risk Management Committee presiding member and deputy presiding member for a term of four months, to expire following the 2025 Ordinary Local Government Elections.**

#### **BACKGROUND**

Previous provisions enabled committee's made under section 5.8 of the *Local Government Act 1995 (the Act)* to appoint the presiding member and deputy presiding member amongst the members at the first committee meeting following the local government ordinary election.

As part of the reforms to the *Local Government Act 1995 (the Act)*, changes to section 5.12 of the Act now require the presiding members and deputy presiding members of committee to be appointed by absolute majority by Council. Subsection 5.12(1) requires a presiding member to be appointed, while the deputy presiding member is optional (s 5.12(2)).

Transitional provision 67 and 68 of the Act, relating to the *Local Government Amendment Act 2024* require Council, for each of its existing committees, to make its first appointment of the presiding member and deputy presiding member under new section 5.12 no later than 1 July 2025.



Until the first appointment is made, the person who, immediately before amendment day (6 December 2024), is the presiding member of the existing committee may continue to be the presiding member.

Officers have not brought this appointment to Council prior to this report in anticipation of further changes to the Committee, including the name of the committee, terms of reference amendments, and public participation, however these changes are not likely to commence until after 1 July 2025.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Transitional provision 67 and 68 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, relating to the *Local Government Amendment Act 2024* (local government reforms), set the requirements for Council to appoint a presiding member and a deputy presiding member of an existing committee.

### **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

This item is in keeping with the City of Fremantle's Strategic Community Plan 2024 – 2034:

#### **Corporate - Lead and empower the organisation to deliver the vision of 'strong reputation, stronger future'**

- Enable the City to maintain legislative compliance and accountability for organisational decision making.

### **CONSULTATION**

Nil.

### **OFFICER COMMENT**

Transitional provision 67 and 68 of the Act, relating to the *Local Government Amendment Act 2024* require Council, for each of its existing committees, to make its first appointment of the presiding member and deputy presiding member under new section 5.12 no later than 1 July 2025. Until the first appointment is made, the person who, immediately before amendment day (6 December 2024), is the presiding member of the existing committee may continue to be the presiding member.



At the Audit and Risk Management Committee meeting held on 11 December 2023, Cr Frank Mofflin was elected as presiding member, and Cr Fedele Camarda was elected as deputy presiding member. Both terms are for a period of two years, to expire following the 2025 Ordinary Local Government Election to be held on 18 October 2025.

Officers recommend to continue with both appointments, noting that between 1 July 2025 and 18 October 2025 the Audit and Risk Management Committee are set to meet for one meeting in September, which is also during Caretaker Period.

### **VOTING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

Absolute Majority Required

### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

#### **Council:**

- 1. Appoint Cr Frank Mofflin as presiding member of the Audit and Risk Management Committee for the term of four months, to expire following the 2025 Ordinary Local Government Elections.**
- 2. Appoint Cr Fedele Camarda as deputy presiding member of the Audit and Risk Management Committee for the term of four months, to expire following the 2025 Ordinary Local Government Elections.**



## ARMC2506-2 AUDIT ACTIONS UPDATE - MAY 2025

<b>Meeting date:</b>	25 June 2025
<b>Responsible officer:</b>	Manager Financial Services
<b>Voting requirements:</b>	Simple Majority Required
<b>Attachments:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>CONFIDENTIAL</b> - Audit Actions Register June 2025</li><li>2. <b>CONFIDENTIAL</b> - Emerging Findings Letter Response by City</li><li>3. Report 17 Local Government Management of Purchasing Cards</li></ol>

### SUMMARY

**This report provides an update on the status of actions arising from annual audits carried out in line with statutory requirements.**

**The report requests the Audit and Risk Management Committee receive and note the current list of audit actions and status associated with each.**

### BACKGROUND

Currently the City of Fremantle participates in or undertakes the following audits as required under the *Local Government Act 1995*:

- Audit of annual financial statements
- Audit of General computer controls and information systems
- Audit of Financial management (Regulation 5)
- Audit of general systems, procedures and controls (Regulation 17)

The Financial Audit and General Computer Controls Audit are carried out by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) and assess both financial and information technology related compliance and controls.

The Regulation 5 and Regulation 17 audits are carried out by external auditors engaged by the City.

The OAG also carries out Performance audits from time to time on topics selected by the Auditor General. These audits assess the efficiency and effectiveness of entity activities, services and programs.



Each audit results in a series of recommendations being made by the auditor, which the City reviews, tracks and actions accordingly. Recommendations are rated based on risk and severity and the city prioritises any remediation required on that basis.

The audit register, as provided in confidential attachment 1, provides information regarding the status of each action and progress associated with each.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The City considers and actions audit recommendations in line with its requirements under the *Local Government Act 1995*.

If the Auditor General or a local government's appointed auditor reports a significant matter in an audit report, section 7.12A of the Local Government Act 1995 (the Act) requires a response from the local government.

The requirements of this response are:

1. Upon receipt of the auditor's report, the local government must prepare a report for its Audit Committee to address the significant matters raised and outline what action(s) the local government has taken or intends to take in respect of each of the matters raised.
2. The Audit Committee minutes and the report to the Minister are referred to Council for proper review and endorsement of any proposed actions.
3. Within 3 months of receipt of the auditor's report, a copy of the Council-endorsed report must be provided to the Minister.
4. Within 14 days of providing a copy of the report to the Minister, a copy must be published on the local government's website.

### **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

This is in keeping with the City of Fremantle's Strategic Community Plan 2024 – 2034:



**Corporate - Lead and empower the organisation to deliver the vision of 'strong reputation, stronger future'**

- Enable the City to maintain legislative compliance and accountability for organisational decision making.
- Support the City through financial, procurement and revenue functions whilst ensuring legislative compliance and providing excellent customer service.

**CONSULTATION**

Audit recommendations are implemented and actioned in consultation with auditors to ensure accurate interpretation and understanding of audit recommendations.

**OFFICER COMMENT**

The audit action register has been developed as part of the continuous improvement of the City's management and reporting of audit activities and findings.

The audit action register provides a summary report of all the current open audit findings, recommendations, and progress comments from the various audit activities.

Noting that full audit reports are presented to the Audit and Risk Management Committee upon completion of each audit, the register provides an ongoing summary update on status and includes the following information:

- The core finding identified by the relevant audit.
- The associated risk rating as identified by the auditor.
- The auditor's core recommended actions.
- The officer responsible for implementing the action.
- Indications of which audits resulted in the core finding, whether it be the OAG financial, performance or IT audits, Regulation 5 or 17.
- Comments on progress made, and current status of action being taken by the City.
- Estimated completion date and actual completion date for the items that have been resolved.

Since the ARMC in March 2025, there are 18 outstanding items on the audit register.



Of the Eighteen outstanding items:

- Eleven relate to the OAG GCC (IT) Audit, with nine of those findings being assessed as moderate and two other being assessed as minor.
- One relates to the Reg 17 audit and is assessed as moderate.
- Six relate to the OAG Performance Audit for the management of purchasing cards with one finding being significant, four being moderate and one being minor.

Five findings are now complete with the majority of remaining findings on track to be addressed and closed out prior to the end of 2025.

### **OAG Performance Audit - Local Government Management of Purchasing Cards**

In early 2025 the OAG selected the City of Fremantle, along with several other metropolitan local governments to undergo a performance audit relating to the use of Purchasing Cards. The focus of the performance audit was to assess whether larger metropolitan Local Government entities effectively manage the issue, use and cancellation of purchasing cards, based on the following criteria:

1. Are there effective controls over the issue and cancellation of purchasing cards?
2. Are there effective controls over the use of purchasing cards?

This audit was recently concluded and results of the audit have now been received by the City, as shown in the emerging findings letter provided in Attachment 2.

As outlined in the table below, the City received six findings as part of the audit, one of which was considered by the OAG to be significant.



INDEX OF FINDINGS	RATING		
	Significant	Moderate	Minor
<b>Findings identified in the current audit</b>			
1. Inadequate policy guidance on allowable and reasonable business use	✓.		
2. Control weaknesses over the issue and cancellation of cards		✓.	
3. Review and approval of purchases did not comply with City policies and procedures		✓.	
4. Policies and procedures to manage purchasing cards are missing key elements		✓.	
5. Insufficient information is included in the list of transactions presented to Council		✓.	
6. No appropriate management oversight of purchasing card control effectiveness			✓.

The significant finding, OAG Recommendation, and the City’s response to the finding and proposed action to be taken, is provided below for Council consideration:

**Finding 1: Inadequate policy guidance on allowable and reasonable business use.**

**OAG Recommendation:**

*The City of Fremantle should develop and implement staff travel, hospitality, alcohol for staff and council members, meals and entertainment policies that align with business use and community expectations.*

**Action in response to significant finding:**

The City is in the process of reviewing and updating its Procurement Policy, and developed a new set of guidelines that incorporates the existing purchase card procedure. This document will provide more definitive guidelines on what is allowable and reasonable with respect to the above-mentioned spending categories. The draft Procurement Policy will be provided to Council for consideration by the end of August 2025.



In line with legislative requirements, this report and associated attachments outline the nature of the significant finding and the action being taken by the City to remedy it. Following consideration by the Audit and Risk Management Committee and Council, the required information will be forwarded to the Minister and published on the City's website as per the statutory requirements.

## **VOTING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority Required

## **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

- 1. Receive and note the updated Audit Actions Register as provided in confidential attachment 1.**
- 2. Receive and note the Performance Audit Emerging Findings Letter as provided in confidential attachment 2.**
- 3. Note the significant finding received in the *OAG Performance Audit - Local Government Management of Purchasing Card*; and accept the City's action in response to this finding, as outlined in this report.**
- 4. Note in accordance with section 7.12A of the *Local Government Act 1995*, this report will be provided to the Minister for Local Government, and a copy will be placed on the City's website within 14 days.**



## **ARMC2506-3 EMERGING ISSUES REPORT - MARCH TO MAY 2025**

<b>Meeting date:</b>	25 June 2025
<b>Responsible officer:</b>	Manager Governance
<b>Voting requirements:</b>	Simple Majority Required
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. <b>CONFIDENTIAL</b> - Emerging Issues Summary Report May 25

### **SUMMARY**

**This report highlights the relevant issues which are either current or emerging and may significantly affect the operation, financial, legal, or reputational operation of the City.**

**These matters are raised to inform the committee of any significant issues identified by officers and allow for any further feedback or questions on the actions currently being taken or under consideration to address and resolve them.**

### **BACKGROUND**

Part of the role of the Audit and Risk Management Committee is to be aware of any significant financial, political, and corporate issues being identified by the organisation and to understand, review or advise on the possible actions to address these.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Some of the issues and potential mitigation actions outlined in this report may include financial implications for the City. Order of magnitude estimates of financial implications based on information available at the time of the report is included in the issues table attached.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The City actively seeks legal advice and support where issues and risks identified have potential legal implications.

### **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

This is in keeping with the City of Fremantle's Strategic Community Plan 2024 – 2034:



**Corporate - Lead and empower the organisation to deliver the vision of 'strong reputation, stronger future'**

- Enable the City to maintain legislative compliance and accountability for organisational decision making.
- Support the City through financial, procurement and revenue functions whilst ensuring legislative compliance and providing excellent customer service.

**CONSULTATION**

Nil.

**OFFICER COMMENT**

The table provided in confidential attachment 1 identifies the current or emerging issues which are considered significant by the organisation. Some are in action, and some are under review by the organisation and will continue to be updated to the Audit and Risk Management Committee over time.

In conjunction with the organisation's newly developed Risk Management Framework, the City's issues log will provide a consistent and effective means of tracking, managing, and resolving significant issues.

It should be noted that as the City progresses through the transitional period to the new Risk Management Framework, there are a number of issues covered on both the issues log and the current Corporate Risk Register.

The City's emerging issues log is populated and maintained by officers. This document is maintained live in the City's corporate document management system and is reviewed and discussed by the Executive Leadership Team as a standing agenda item monthly.

**VOTING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority Required

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

**Council receive the Emerging Issues report for March to May 2025 as detailed in confidential attachment 1.**



## **ARMC2506-4 PURCHASING POLICY EXEMPTIONS MARCH TO MAY 2025**

**Meeting date:** 25 June 2025  
**Responsible officer:** Manager Financial Services  
**Voting requirements:** Simple Majority Required  
**Attachments:** 1. **CONFIDENTIAL** - Purchasing Policy Exemptions  
March - May 2025

### **SUMMARY**

**The purpose of this report is to inform Council of purchases made by the City that were exempted from the requirements of the Purchasing Policy, during the period March to May 2025.**

**This report recommends that Council receive the Purchasing Policy Exemptions report for March to May 2025.**

### **BACKGROUND**

The City's Purchasing Policy outlines the requirements and decision-making process for each Policy threshold. The Policy also contains a list of tender exemptions (exempt under Regulation 11(2) of the *Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996*) and other Policy exemptions.

Under this policy all exemptions applied by the City are to be reported to the Audit and Risk Management Committee.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

### **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

This is in keeping with the City of Fremantle's Strategic Community Plan 2024 – 2034:



**Corporate - Lead and empower the organisation to deliver the vision of 'strong reputation, stronger future'**

- Support the City through financial, procurement and revenue functions whilst ensuring legislative compliance and providing excellent customer service.

**CONSULTATION**

Nil.

**OFFICER COMMENT**

**March 2025**

The total value of spending exempt from the City of Fremantle Purchasing Policy was **\$93,583.000** for the month of March 2025.

The value of exemptions by category is:

Exemption Category	Value
Purchasing Policy Exemption	\$90,923.00
Request for Artist	\$2,660.00
Sole Source of Supply	Nil
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$93,583.00</b>

Details regarding individual exemptions can be found in Attachment 1.

**April 2025**

The total value of spending exempt from the City of Fremantle Purchasing Policy was **\$142,489.00** for the month of April 2025.

The value of exemptions by category is:

Exemption Category	Value
Purchasing Policy Exemption	\$80,000.00
Request for Artist	Nil
Sole Source of Supply	\$62,489.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$142,489.00</b>

Details regarding individual exemptions can be found in Attachment 1.



## **May 2025**

The total value of spending exempt from the City of Fremantle Purchasing Policy was **\$63,400.00** for the month of May 2025.

The value of exemptions by category is:

Exemption Category	Value
Purchasing Policy Exemption	\$63,400.00
Request for Artist	Nil
Sole Source of Supply	Nil
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$63,400.00</b>

Details regarding individual exemptions can be found in Attachment 1.

## **VOTING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority Required

## **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

**Council receive the information report on Purchasing Policy Exemptions for March to May 2025.**



## **ARMC2506-5 TENDERS AWARDED UNDER DELEGATION MARCH TO MAY 2025**

**Meeting date:** 25 June 2025  
**Responsible officer:** Manager Financial Services  
**Voting requirements:** Simple Majority Required  
**Attachments:** Nil

### **SUMMARY**

**The purpose of this report is to summarise tenders awarded under delegation by various delegated Officers and Committees during the period March to May 2025.**

**This report recommends that Council receive the report on tenders awarded under delegation between March to May 2025.**

### **BACKGROUND**

Tenders awarded by the City are awarded under the following delegations, approved at Council on 26 June 2024 (C2406-15):

<b>Delegated Authority</b>	<b>Amount of Delegation</b>
Ordinary Meeting of Council	\$1,000,000+ (if within budget)
CEO	Up to \$1,000,000
Directors	Up to \$500,000

Items identified under 'Officer Comment' of this report detail tenders awarded under delegation.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

All tenders were awarded in line with the adopted 2024-25 budget.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

All tenders awarded met the requirements of Regulations 11A – 24AJ of the *Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996* and S3.57 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.



Under delegation 2.11 Expressions of interest and tenders, of the City’s Register of Delegated Authority 2023-24, the Chief Executive Officer is required to report the use of this delegation to the Audit and Risk Management Committee.

**STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

This is in keeping with the City of Fremantle’s Strategic Community Plan 2024 – 2034:

**Corporate - Lead and empower the organisation to deliver the vision of 'strong reputation, stronger future'**

- Support the City through financial, procurement and revenue functions whilst ensuring legislative compliance and providing excellent customer service.

**CONSULTATION**

Nil.

**OFFICER COMMENT**

Below is a list of tenders awarded under delegation between March to May 2025.

**March 2025**

Tender Description	Awarded By	Contractor(s)	Contract Term	Contract Value
FCC672/24 - Supply and Delivery of One 4x2 Jetting Vacuum Excavator	Directors	STG Global Pty Ltd	One Off Purchase	381,396.00 ex GST

**April 2025**

Tender Description	Awarded By	Contractor(s)	Contract Term	Contract Value
RFQ634/25 - Fremantle Oval Redevelopment Business Case Phase – Lead Consultant	Directors	Urbis Limited	Up to 1 year	\$249,650.00 ex GST
FCC670/24 - Aquatic Water Treatment Servicing –	Directors	Aquatic Services WA Pty Ltd	Up to 6 years	\$228,404.46 ex GST



Preventative and Reactive				
FCC671/24 – Supply and Delivery of One 4x2 Rear Loading Refuse Truck	Directors	Major Motors Isuzu Pty Ltd	One Off Purchase	388,440.00 ex GST
FCC673/24 - WCC Mechanical and Electrical Warm Shell Tenancy Fit Out	CEO	MEP Service Group Pty Ltd	3 Months	707,726.00 ex GST
WFCC127/25 - Agency Labour Hire - HR Drivers and Laborers	CEO	Perth Recruitment Services Pty Ltd	1 Year	\$900,000.00 ex GST

**May 2025**

Tender Description	Awarded By	Contractor(s)	Contract Term	Contract Value
Nil				

**VOTING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority Required

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

**Council received the information report on Tenders Awarded under Delegation for March to May 2025.**



## **ARMC2506-6 OVERDUE DEBTORS REPORT AS AT 31 MAY 2025**

<b>Meeting date:</b>	25 June 2025
<b>Responsible officer:</b>	Manager Financial Services
<b>Voting requirements:</b>	Simple Majority Required
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. <b>CONFIDENTIAL</b> - Summary of Outstanding Debtors as at 31 May 2025

### **SUMMARY**

**This Overdue Debtors Report, with confidential attachment, is provided to the Audit and Risk Management Committee to report details of overdue debts, as at 31 May 2025, and identify those where the amount owing is over 90 days with a total debt exceeding \$10,000.**

**This report recommends that Council receive the Overdue Debtors Report and acknowledge the overdue debts exceeding 90 days that have a combined value greater than \$10,000 as at 31 May 2025.**

### **BACKGROUND**

This report provides the Audit and Risk Management Committee the following information in relation to overdue debtors:

- The amount of total debt outstanding for the period aged from current to over 90 days overdue with a comparison to the same period for the previous year.
- All records of the uses of delegated authority, to waive or write off debts valued at \$1,000 or above.
- A confidential report containing the individual debtor information in relation to the outstanding debts exceeding 90 days with a combined value of debt, by debtor, exceeding \$10,000.
- The Debtor Day Ratio, being the average number of days taken for the City to receive payment from its customers for invoices issued to them.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

It is a requirement that annual financial statements include an allowance for impairment of receivables owed to the local government to be recognised as a cost to the budget in the year in which the impairment is made.

As at the year ending 30 June 2024, an amount of \$160,937 is held as an allowance for impairment of sundry receivables. There was a total of \$87,996 of waivers or debts written off for the 2023/24 financial year.



## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Section 6.12 (1) (c) of the *Local Government Act 1995* provides authority for the Council to write off outstanding monies.

In accordance with section 5.42 and 5.44 of the *Local Government Act 1995* the following delegated authority applies:

- The Chief Executive Officer has delegated authority to write off debts (not including rates or infringement) considered unrecoverable up to \$50,000 per account where, in the opinion of the Chief Executive Officer, all other reasonable avenues of recovery have been exhausted.
- Directors and Managers have various sub-delegated authority to write off debts (not including rates or infringement) considered unrecoverable up to \$20,000 per account where, in the opinion of the Director or Manager, all other reasonable avenues of recovery have been exhausted.

All records of the uses of this delegated authority, to waive or write off debts valued at \$1,000 or above, per debtor, must be reported to the Audit and Risk Management Committee.

Any amount more than \$50,000 is to be written off by Council resolution. A Council resolution authorising the write-off of any bad debt does not prevent Council from reinstating the debt if the future circumstances change and the debt becomes collectable.

## **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

This is in keeping with the City of Fremantle's Strategic Community Plan 2024 – 2034:

### **Corporate - Lead and empower the organisation to deliver the vision of 'strong reputation, stronger future'**

- Support the City through financial, procurement and revenue functions whilst ensuring legislative compliance and providing excellent customer service.

## **CONSULTATION**

Nil.

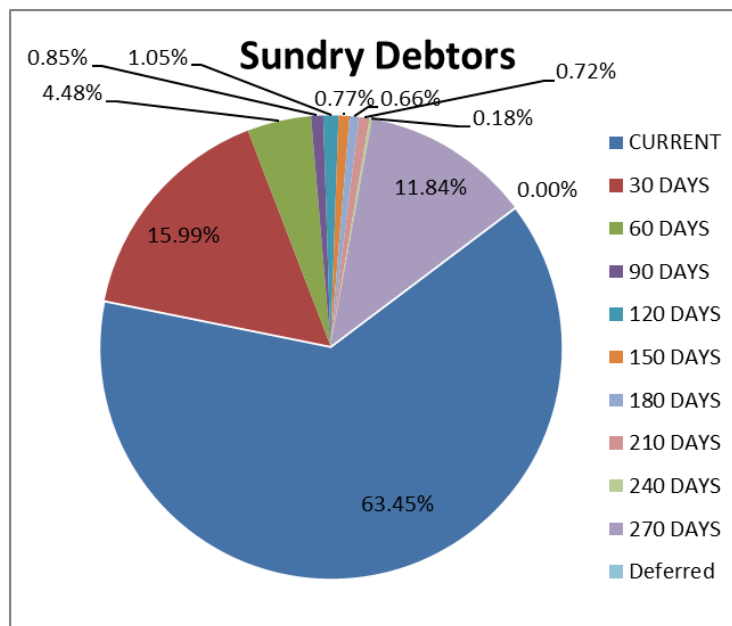
## **OFFICER COMMENT**

The total of debts outstanding as at 31 May 2025 was \$746,129. A breakdown of aged debt for the current period compared to prior year is tabled below.



Period Ending May 2025	Current	30 Days	60 Days	90+ Days	Total
Mar 25 - May 25	63%	16%	4%	16%	100%
	473,416	119,323	33,425	119,965	746,129
Mar 25 - May 25 Excl. Commercial Properties	64%	21%	7%	9%	100%
	245,292	79,110	26,538	34,186	385,127
Mar 24 - May 24	459,499	145,660	74,715	425,837	1,105,710

The graph below shows the aged debt balances as at 31 May 2025:



Compared to the report of overdue debtors as at 28 February 2025, which was presented to Audit and Risk Management Committee meeting on 17 March 2025, the total value of outstanding debts has increased from \$739,705 to \$746,129.

Total outstanding debt over 90 days has decreased from \$140,807 at the end of the previous reporting date to \$119,965.

The number of overdue debtors over 90 days, and above the total debt reporting threshold of \$10,000 has increased to four.

Of the four reported, one debtor has increased, one is new and the other two debtors has had the debts reduced.

The four debtors have a total debt owing of \$124,650 of which \$100,729 is over 90 days. The confidential attachment contains details of the debtors comprising this balance.



## **Key Performance Indicators**

When determining status or risk associated with outstanding debtors, officers typically consider and assess the following metrics:

- Total amount of outstanding debt
- Age of outstanding debt (and value of that debt)
- Frequency of payment of outstanding debt
- Outstanding debt per individual debtor
- Outstanding debt per type of debtor

Officers consider all of these metrics alongside each other as well as the debtor day ratio to assist in providing an overarching assessment of general performance of outstanding debtors. The debtor day ratio measures how quickly cash is being collected from debtors regardless of the level of total outstanding amount of debt or the type of debt, allowing for a consistent metric that will identify periods where debtors are taking longer to pay down outstanding debt.

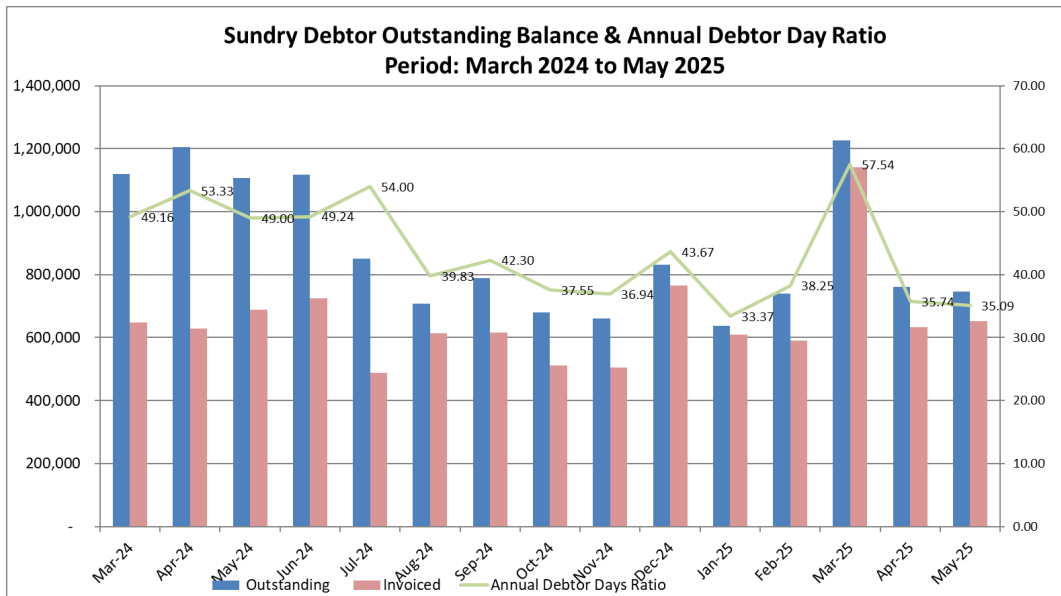
A number of metrics have been provided to follow that provide an initial snapshot of performance and or status of outstanding debtors to follow.

### Debtor Day Ratio

The Debtor Day Ratio measures how quickly cash is being collected from debtors. The longer it takes for an organisation to collect, the greater the number of debtor days.

The calculation of the ratio considers the total amount outstanding at the end of the period divided by the total amount invoiced to that period for the financial year. This is then multiplied by the total number of days from 1 July to the end of the period. See calculation in the graph to follow.

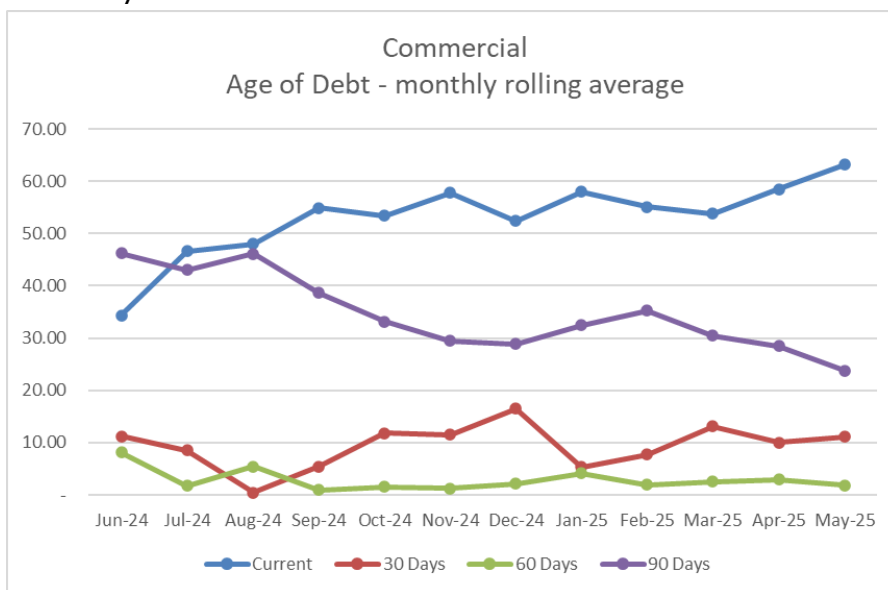
The chart to follow indicates the debtor days over the last 12 months. Debtor days have steadily decreased over the past 12 months, with a ratio of 35.09 being reported for May 2025.



**Age of Debt**

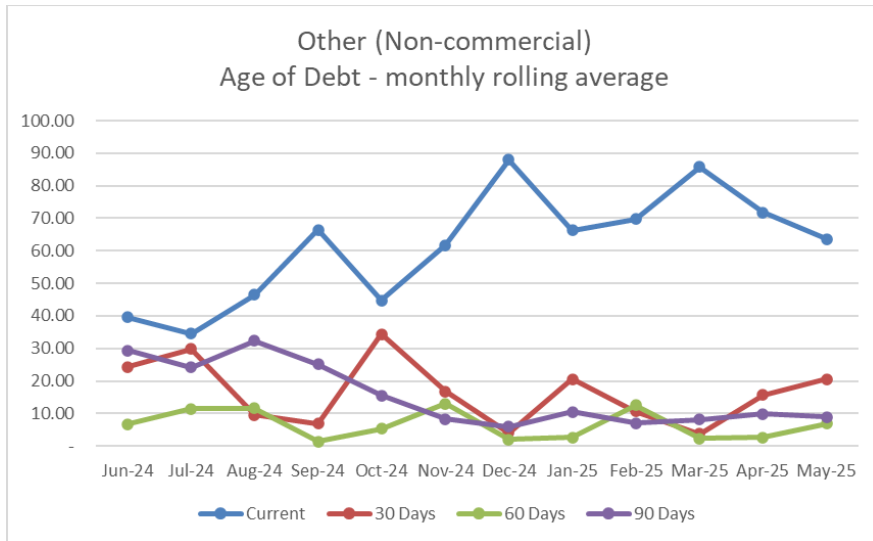
The rolling 12-month Average for debt in each age category is shown in the graphs to follow for Commercial and Other (non-commercial) debt. These graphs show the 12-month average as at each point in time, to provide a view of the trend of the City’s aged debt portfolio.

As per the monthly rolling average chart for commercial, the portion of debt that is current was 31% as at May 2025. The portion of debt that is over 90 days has slightly increased since the last reporting period. The portion of debt in the 30-59 days and 60-89 days remained at the lower end.



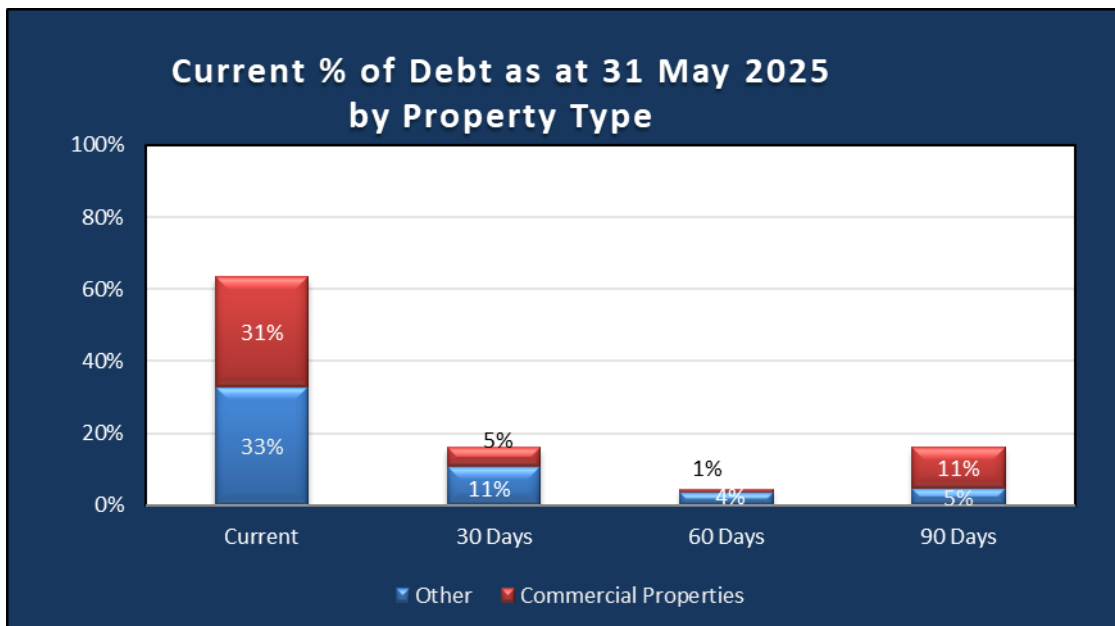


For other (non-commercial) debt, current debt has reduced from 40% to 33% since the last reporting period. All other categories remain much lower than the current trend line. This indicates a high proportion of debts being collected in a timely manner.



The Current Value of Debt by Age category is shown in the graph to follow, split between Commercial Properties and Other (Non-Commercial) Property Types. Of the total debt, Non-Commercial Properties account for 33% of Current debt, and account for 5% of the debt owing 90 days or more.

City officers continue to liaise with all commercial tenants to provide assistance, including payment arrangements where appropriate.





**Delegation 2.3 - Defer payment, grant a concession, waive fees and write off of Debts**

During the reported period there were two waiver/write offs.

1. Parking fees for People with Disabilities WA to the amount of \$11,645
2. Town Hall commercial hire fee to the amount of \$7,470

**VOTING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority Required

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

**Council receive the Overdue Debtors Report as at 31 May 2025, and the confidential attachment listing overdue debts exceeding 90 days with the combined value, by debtor, exceeding \$10,000 as at 31 May 2025.**



## **ARMC2506-7 FINANCIAL HARDSHIP POLICY**

**Meeting date:** 25 June 2025  
**Responsible officer:** Director City Business  
**Voting requirements:** Simple Majority Required  
**Attachments:** 1. Council Financial Hardship Policy with Amendments

### **SUMMARY**

**This report recommends that Council adopt proposed amendments to the City's existing Financial Hardship Policy.**

**The Financial Hardship Policy was developed to assist ratepayers that may be experiencing genuine financial hardship and require a different approach to paying outstanding rates and service charges when they fall due.**

**The primary amendments to the policy relate to removing outdated references to Covid-19. In addition to this, family and domestic violence has been included in the eligibility criteria. The policy has also been extended to all City debtors.**

### **BACKGROUND**

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, a ministerial order; *Local Government (COVID-19)* was gazetted on 8 May 2020. The orders dealt with several issues, one of them being financial hardship. Information released in the Ministerial Circular issued to all local governments, encouraged the implementation of a financial hardship policy that addressed how the local government would deal with financial hardship of ratepayers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Financial Hardship Policy was introduced and approved by Council on 8 July 2020. It has been in place since that time with no amendments. The wording implemented at the time referenced COVID-19 specifically which is no longer required. All arrangements dealt with under that particular provision have also now been resolved or paid off by respective debtors.

The City has also identified family and domestic violence as increasingly contributing to financial hardship within local communities and as such has recommended the addition of this category to the eligibility criteria for the policy.



## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As a result of approval of this amended policy, there will remain a possibility of reduced overdue interest income and delay in receiving rates and service charge revenue.

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

No changes required.

## STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

This is in keeping with the City of Fremantle's Strategic Community Plan 2024 – 2034:

### **Corporate - Lead and empower the organisation to deliver the vision of 'strong reputation, stronger future'**

- Support the City through financial, procurement and revenue functions whilst ensuring legislative compliance and providing excellent customer service.

## CONSULTATION

Nil.

## OFFICER COMMENT

The recommended amendments to this Council Policy are tracked within **Attachment 1**. The following table lists the proposed amendments to the Financial Hardship Policy and the justification for each amendment.

Change	Reason
<b>Financial Hardship Policy</b>	
1. Anticipated Financial Hardship due to COVID19 section removed	No longer relevant
2. Added in Family and Domestic Violence to the Financial Hardship Criteria	Relevant new criteria for financial hardship
3. Included additional wording in policy statement to advise it is not a council discount and full rates and charges are still required to be paid.	Feedback from public that policy was not clear in this regard
4. Policy adapted to apply to debtors in general, not only Rate payers	To address financial hardship for non-ratepayers



## VOTING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority Required

## OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

**Moved: Cr Frank Mofflin**

**Seconded: Mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge**

**Council:**

- 1. Adopt the following amended Financial Hardship Policy, as provided in Attachment 1.**
- 2. Note that minor amendments that do not change the effect or intent of the policy such as formatting, branding and corrections considered appropriate by the administration, may be made without further approval from Council.**

In accordance with clause 9.7 of the [Meeting Procedures Policy](#), Mr Brad Pearce moved the following amendment, accepted by the Presiding Member:

### AMENDMENT 1

**Moved: Mr Brad Pearce**

**Seconded: Ms Hayley Manser**

Amend the officer's recommendation to include a part 3, as follows:

- 3. *Request that the Financial Hardship Policy be reviewed every three (3) years.***

**Amendment Carried: 7/0**

**For:**

**Mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge, Cr Fedele Camarda, Cr Frank Mofflin,  
Cr Ingrid van Dorssen, Cr Jenny Archibald,  
Ms Hayley Manser and Brad Pearce**

**Against:**

**Nil**



## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

### Council:

- 1. Adopt the following amended Financial Hardship Policy, as provided in Attachment 1.**
- 2. Note that minor amendments that do not change the effect or intent of the policy such as formatting, branding and corrections considered appropriate by the administration, may be made without further approval from Council.**
- 3. *Request that the Financial Hardship Policy be reviewed every three (3) years.***



## **ARMC2506-8 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE - JUNE 2025**

<b>WG meeting date:</b>	24 March 2025
<b>Responsible officer:</b>	Manager Field Services
<b>Voting requirements:</b>	Simple Majority Required
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. LEMC Minutes - 24 March 2025 2. Final Exercise Piper Report 2025

### **SUMMARY**

**The purpose of this information report is to provide an overview of the functions of the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC), including the City's role in emergency management, and to provide the minutes of the 24 March 2025 LEMC meeting.**

### **BACKGROUND**

It is recognised that local governments are the closest level of government to their communities and have access to local knowledge about the local environment and demographic features of their communities.

It is recognised that in some instances the wider community are not always informed as best as can be on emergency management, and what it means to be prepared for an unanticipated emergency event.

Section 36 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005* states the functions of local government in an emergency are:

- a. subject to this Act, to ensure that effective local emergency management arrangements are prepared and maintained for its district;
- b. to manage recovery following an emergency affecting the community in its district; and
- c. to perform other functions given to the local government under this Act.

As per the definition in the *Act*, recovery means the support of emergency affected communities in the reconstruction and restoration of physical infrastructure, the environment and community, psychosocial and economic wellbeing.

The functions of a local emergency management committee (LEMC) are:

- a. to advise and assist the local government in ensuring that local emergency management arrangements are established for its district;



- b. to liaise with public authorities and other persons in the development, review and testing of local emergency management arrangements; and
- c. to carry out other emergency management activities as directed by the SEMC or prescribed by the regulations.

The current LEMC is made up of City officers and representatives from:

• WA Police Force	• Australian Border Force
• DFES	• Fremantle Ports
• St John Ambulance	• Department of Communities
• Department of Defense	• Department of Health

Representatives from other groups such as aged care and medical facilities attend meetings on an irregular basis.

The City's membership of the LEMC now includes two elected members, Cr Jemima Williamson-Wong and Cr Geoff Graham, and meets four times per year.

### **COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The City's Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA), shared with the Town of East Fremantle, were endorsed by the LEMC on 27 February 2017 and approved by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) on 2 May 2017. They were reviewed in 2025.

Towards the end of each financial year officers of the LEMC prepare an Annual Report which is a self-assessment of the City's Emergency Management capabilities. The report identifies any gaps due to external or internal factors during that period.

Over the last five years the City has responded, on average, to three Incident Support Group (ISG) activations per year, with the main hazards being commercial and residential building fires.

The committee met on 24 March 2025 to discuss recent and upcoming exercises, the endorsement of the Local Emergency Relief and Support Plan, and the review of the State Emergency Management Framework. The minutes of the meeting are provided in attachment 1. The next meeting will be held on 11 June 2025 at the Town of East Fremantle.



The City, along with East Fremantle, recently facilitated an ISG desktop exercise, involving a mid-air collision of two light aircraft over the City of Fremantle. The exercise was well attended by both internal and external stakeholders and reviewed by DFES. A report on this exercise is provided in attachment 2.

### **VOTING AND OTHER SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority Required.

### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

**Council receive the Local Emergency Management Committee update for June 2025.**



## **Motion of which previous notice has been given**

### **C2506-19 NOTICE OF MOTION - PAINT THE TOWN PURPLE - CR ADIN LANG**

<b>Meeting date:</b>	25 June 2025
<b>Responsible officer:</b>	Director City Business
<b>Voting requirements:</b>	Simple Majority Required
<b>Attachments:</b>	Nil

#### **ELECTED MEMBER SUMMARY**

The intent of this Motion is to celebrate and support the greatest team in the history of the AFL, the Fremantle Football Club (FFC), while also bringing the spirit of finals football into Fremantle. If implemented, it could also offer a low-cost economic development vehicle to encourage more visitors to Fremantle.

In 2013 when the FFC made the AFL Grand Final, Fremantle Council painted the median of the Cappuccino Strip purple. This further encouraged residents and businesses to follow suit, and much of Fremantle was taken over by all things purple. This was repeated in the following years when the FFC made the finals, more recently the grass slope of the Walyalup Civic Centre was painted with the FFC logo.

However, Both the timing and scale of support offered by the Fremantle Council has historically been ad hoc which creates uncertainty about if/when there will be Council support or when others should join the festivities.

#### **MILESTONE**

Formalisation of a milestone that clearly outlines when Fremantle Council will throw support behind a FFC finals campaign and what activations could be expected at agreed milestones provides certainty to the community and may encourage further festivities or celebration across the City in the lead up to the Grand Final.



Figure 1. Workers from the City of Fremantle painting part of South Terrace purple ahead of the Dockers appearance in Saturday's preliminary final. Source ABC News

## **OFFICER COMMENT**

As part of ongoing activation and destination development initiatives, the City has engaged with several national and international sporting events as a way to drive activation within the City Centre and build community pride and spirit.

Previous examples of leveraging sporting events to activate the city have included the previously mentioned AFL Grand Final in 2013, the Leeds United exhibition match, the Women's Soccer World Cup and the anniversary of Australia's Americas Cup win.

Activation associated with these sporting events typically involves decoration of public spaces in the theme of the sporting team being recognised, public live streams of the sporting event in question, and the delivery of on ground activations in and around the sporting content being streamed.

An important consideration when delivering these activations is ensuring that local businesses who would typically run their own activations/events/promotions as part of these types of events (i.e. hotels, pubs, sports bars and other similar businesses) are engaged in the process and the activity being delivered by the City is complementary to their activities and does not reduce trade.



The Fremantle Dockers form an important part of Fremantle's cultural and community fabric and as such the City of Fremantle already put preparations in place annually for the delivery of an activation, in the event that the Dockers make it to the finals and Grand Final. This activity will also support the club's commitment to hold a post Grand Final parade, should the Dockers successfully qualify for and win an AFL Grand Final, as part of the sponsorship agreement with the City. Due to the time and cost associated with the delivery of these types of activations, they are typically designed to build over the finals period towards the Grand Final.

While delivering this kind of activity within the finals has been a consideration in the past, the nature in which teams move through and/or are eliminated from the finals presents the need for time and resources to be expended on an outcome that may only eventuate for one occasion, hence the need to build towards the grand final. To address this, officers will identify options in which to deliver a staged recognition of the Fremantle Dockers progression through the finals series which may include trigger points for the initiation of certain activities to be delivered as they progress, with the intent that programming builds towards the largest activation on grand final day.

When the Fremantle Dockers reached the Grand Final in 2013, the City closed the cappuccino strip to traffic, painted the median strip purple and hosted a live streamed event on the cappuccino strip during the Grand Final. This also included a family friendly area delivered at the Esplanade reserve.

The event was very well attended and created a welcomed vibrancy that the community engaged with strongly.

Closing the cappuccino strip and decorating it typically creates the need for a road closure and associated traffic management plan. The cost associated with this can be up to \$50,000. In addition to this the delivery of activations, marketing and costs associated with any decorations would also come at a cost of approximately \$50,000. Overall the delivery of such an event could cost up to \$100,000 annually, not including any additional cost required for staging of activities during the finals series.

Following the 2013 Grand Final, the City Centre underwent a significant redevelopment resulting in the delivery of the Walyalup Koort precinct which now offers a suitable space for large scale public events. This was demonstrated through the delivery of a successful activation for the FIFA Women's World Cup, where a live site was provided for key games within the finals series. The use of Walyalup Koort as an event space removes the need for road closures and traffic



management and as such reduces the cost of event delivery as well as minimise impact on business that may be affected by road closures and event delivery on the Cappuccino Strip.

As such officers recommend that any live site and activation for the Finals Series or Grand Final day should also incorporate Walyalup Koort, as an extension to any activities being delivered within the cappuccino strip.

In order to provide consistency in this approach it is recommended that it be incorporated into the City's Economic Development Strategy, which is currently under development.

Any financial implication associated with the delivery of this initiative will be brought to Council as a budget amendment in the event that the Fremantle Dockers confirm a place in the finals series and/or Grand Final.

## **VOTING AND OTHER SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority Required

## **ELECTED MEMBER MOTION**

### **Council:**

- 1. Request the Chief Executive Officer incorporate within the draft Economic Development Strategy 2025-2030, an approach to recognising and celebrating the Fremantle Dockers participation in the AFL and AFLW Finals Series and Grand Final.**
- 2. Endorse Walyalup Koort and the Cappuccino Strip as the most suitable locations for City Centre activations associated with the celebration and recognition of significant sporting events, including but not limited to the Fremantle Dockers participation in the AFL and AFLW Finals Series and Grand Final.**
- 3. Note that any activities delivered by the City in recognition and celebration of the Fremantle Dockers participation in the AFL and AFLW Finals Series and Grand Final, will include and encourage engagement and participation by local businesses.**



- 4. Note that any approach proposed will include criteria and staging around how and when the Fremantle Dockers progression through the finals series is recognised and celebrated.**
  
- 5. Note that upon confirmation of the Fremantle Dockers achieving participation in the AFL and/or AFLW Finals Series and Grand Final, an activation will be planned for that year and any associated costs will be presented to Council as a budget amendment for consideration.**



**C2506-20 NOTICE OF MOTION - ENSURING A CULTURALLY VIBRANT CITY - CR BEN LAWVER**

Meeting date: 25 June 2025  
Responsible officer: Chief Executive Officer  
Voting requirements: Simple Majority Required  
Attachments: Nil

**ELECTED MEMBER SUMMARY**

Fremantle is the beating heart of live music in Western Australia providing significant cultural, tourism and economic benefits to the City.

Strategic objectives for our Port City include building a more resilient environment for creative arts to thrive, significantly increasing the number of residents living in our City Centre, as well as encouraging hotels and other forms of accommodation to support a bustling tourist trade.

Increasingly, venues providing spaces for live performance cultural activities are being challenged by new residential developments as well as hotels and other forms of accommodation built nearby. Existing residents are also reporting impacts on their amenity from new venues opening in close proximity to where they live.

With larger developments now likely to bypass Freo Council and approval of these to be decided without comment from elected members, it is imperative our planning scheme and policies clearly define how our city envisions balancing a substantial growth in residential population and increased tourist accommodation alongside protecting venues where live music is performed.

**OFFICER COMMENT**

Achieving balance between noise generating premises and maintaining adequate levels of amenity for inner city residents is an issue that has been around for as long as cities have. The most vibrant and successful cities are constantly managing this tension, which is an indicator that the city has a complex mix of different land uses that contribute directly to its success. Fremantle is known for its entertainment status and is proud and protective of its diverse range of music, entertainment, events and hospitality offerings. It is also wanting to improve its long-term sustainability as a living-working city that will see an increase in inner-city living.



There are essentially two State Government regulatory mechanisms that are relevant in this context:

The Planning and Development Act 2005 provides the over-arching planning framework, through to the local Scheme and its associated policies; and The Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997 that regulate the standards around permitted noise levels.

The City has a role in administering both pieces of legislation, with certain delegations and limitations. Through its local planning Scheme, the City has the ability to use the planning framework to either segregate different city centre land uses that may be seen to be in conflict (not recommended for city centres) and/or require new developments to incorporate specific design and construction responses to mitigate the effects of noise. Such responses can be applied in either case where the development is likely to be the noise generator or a noise sensitive development. The City currently practices this approach through its development assessment process.

The difficulties emerge when land uses change, especially when heritage buildings are involved, and noise levels are predicted to be in excess of the historic building fabric's ability to adequately deal with noise transmission. Further, State noise regulations are very prescriptive – noise generating premises either comply with the regulations or they do not. In a heritage city such as Fremantle, this will often create a challenge.

This is a highly complex issue which, as seen in recent inner-city developments in Fremantle, can polarise people's views very quickly. The challenge in making any notable improvement to the current situation will need to address:

A comprehensive understanding of the current regulatory frameworks in the Western Australian context.

Review of other cities and analysis of alternative approaches and whether these can be replicated in Fremantle.

Community expectations – trying to define the balance point, with inputs from venues, developers, residents, businesses and visitors.

Government willingness to review their regulations in support of alternative approaches.

Officers are currently moving towards a comprehensive review of the city's planning mechanisms and this would be an opportune time to review and update provisions and policies around urban noise.



In addition to changes to regulations, there may also be a piece of work that the City can explore around advocacy and promotion to seek balance between conflicting land uses and the importance that all parties need to work together on noise issues to ensure the future ongoing success of Fremantle as a vibrant and sustainable city.

## **VOTING AND OTHER SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority Required

## **ELECTED MEMBER MOTION**

### **Council:**

- 1. Request the Chief Executive Officer to establish a Working Group to report back to Council with an initial report before September 2025 and provide more detailed recommendations for consideration before the end of this year on the following:**
  - Any changes required to ensure the planning framework, policies and operational practices acknowledge new developments in City Centres should be required to undertake appropriate measures to dampen external noise generated by cultural activities.**
  - That new residential and accommodation developments achieve a high level of sound mitigation through good design and acoustic performance.**
  - Any changes to the City's policies or planning scheme to ensure venues providing cultural benefits to our city have robust sound attenuation requirements to minimise external noise impacts.**
  - Opportunities to advocate State and/or Federal Governments for legislative reform and other outcomes that will allow our City to balance residential and tourism growth alongside vibrant cultural activities.**
  - Recommendations on the implementation of any of the above.**
  - Considerations on current and/or future enforcement best practices.**



## **C2506-21 NOTICE OF MOTION - NORTH WEST SHELF POSITION STATEMENT - CR JEMIMA WILLIAMSON-WONG**

**Meeting date:** 25 June 2025  
**Responsible officer:** Chief Executive Officer  
**Voting requirements:** Simple Majority Required  
**Attachments:** Nil

### **ELECTED MEMBER SUMMARY**

In 2015, the City of Fremantle became a signatory of the Local Government Climate Change Declaration. This declaration was an opportunity provided through the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) for Councils to demonstrate their political commitment to climate change management and action.

This current policy statement on climate change provides that:

*Local Government acknowledges:*

- 1. The science is clear: climate change is occurring and greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are the dominant cause.*
- 2. Climate change threatens human societies and the Earth's ecosystems.*
- 3. Urgent action is required to reduce emissions, and to adapt to the impacts from climate change that are now unavoidable.*
- 4. A failure to adequately address this climate change emergency places an unacceptable burden on future generations.*

*Local Government is committed to addressing climate change. Local Government is calling for:*

- 1. Strong climate change action, leadership and coordination at all levels of government.*
- 2. Effective and adequately funded Commonwealth and State Government climate change policies and programs.*

In March 2021, Council adopted the Climate Emergency Position Statement, acknowledging the seriousness of the climate crisis. The position included:

*"The City acknowledges that the situation requires urgent action by all levels of government. The City calls upon the State and Federal Governments to acknowledge that there is an emergency and to act accordingly, to rapidly decrease and draw down greenhouse gas emissions ... Most importantly, the City of Fremantle urges all levels of government to base climate change policy in science."*



The West Australian Government states on their website that WA is “already experiencing the impacts of climate change, including more frequency and severe droughts, heatwaves, high-risk bushfire weather, extreme rainfall events and rising sea levels”, with these changes “affecting our communities, our infrastructure, our environment and water supplies, and all sectors of the state’s economy.” Despite this, Western Australia remains the only state without an emissions target, and the only state in which emissions continue to rise.

### **North West Shelf position statement**

The recent approval of the North West Shelf processing plant extension until 2070, and the proposal to take gas from Browse Basin, contradicts climate science. This decision is in opposition to the position taken by the City of Fremantle which calls for urgent action to reduce emissions.

The North West Shelf is already one of the biggest industrial emitters in Australia and will produce an additional 4.4 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide as a result of the decision to extend. The project threatens Scotts Reef, one of the State’s ecologically significant marine environments which is home to endangered species such as the dusky sea snake. Additionally, the local industrial emissions continue to cause irreversible damage to the petroglyphs located on Murujuga, which represent the most dense and diverse collections of rock art in the world.

While the Federal and State governments have asserted that extracting gas from the Burrup Hub is needed for energy security, the International Energy Agency (IEA) has called for the end to new fossil fuel resource development, as this would be inconsistent with meeting the Paris Agreement’s long-term temperature goal. The IEA research indicates that the current LNG capacity greatly exceeds any needs for the requirements of a transition fuel.

The Fremantle community have long advocated for climate action, and since the decision to approve the North West Shelf, many people have been advocating in their communities for stronger action.

#### *References:*

- [\*An Open Letter from Australian Scientists and Experts to Reject the North West Shelf Project Extension\*](#)
- [\*Climate change in WA\*](#)



## **OFFICER COMMENT**

Nil

## **VOTING AND OTHER SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority Required

## **ELECTED MEMBER MOTION**

### **Council:**

- 1. Acknowledges the Fremantle community's continued advocacy on strong climate action.**
  
- 2. Request the Chief Executive Officer write to the relevant Government Departments and Members of Parliament listed below to promote the concerns of the community of Fremantle, and the Council's disappointment in the progressing of approvals to extend the taking of gas from the Browse Basin and for a North West Shelf processing plant to 2070;**
  - Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Minister for the Environment and Water for Australia,**
  - Hon Josh Wilson MP, Member for Fremantle and Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy,**
  - Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister, and**
  - Director General for the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER)**



## **Urgent business**

In cases of extreme urgency or other special circumstances, matters may, on a motion that is carried by the meeting, be raised without notice and decided by the meeting.

## **Late items**

In cases where information is received after the finalisation of an agenda, matters may be raised and decided by the meeting. A written report will be provided for late items.

## **Confidential business**

Nil.

## **Closure**