2025-26

# **Budget**and Rates





# Acknowledgement of Country

The City of Fremantle acknowledges the Whadjuk people as the Traditional Owners of the greater Walyalup / Fremantle area and we recognise that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still important today.

# A message from the City of Fremantle

The City of Fremantle delivers hundreds of services, programs, initiatives, events and activities that benefit everyone - whether you reside in the city or our suburbs, you run a local business or you've come for a visit.

The 2025-26 Budget continues to deliver on the strategic priorities of the community by creating a liveable, thriving, creative, resilient, and inclusive Fremantle.

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.

In 2025-26, the City will increase rates by 5%, a slightly smaller increase compared to the 2024-25 FY. This will allow the City to continue to manage the increased costs of delivering projects and services, such as construction costs and wages growth.

In delivering the 2025-26 Budget, the City is recommitting to delivering the things that matter to residents and ratepayers today while building a financially sustainable future. To this end, the City is also delivering the Long Term Financial Plan, which provides a 10-year outlook on future financial planning for the City and should be read in conjunction with the annual budget each year.

# Visit us

Customer service opening hours 8am-4.30pm (Monday to Friday)

### **Address**

Walyalup Civic Centre 151 High Street, Fremantle Walyalup Koort

#### **Postal**

PO Box 807. Fremantle WA 6959

**T** 1300 MY FREO (1300 693 736)

E info@fremantle.wa.gov.au

W fremantle.wa.gov.au

#### **NRS-friendly**

Hearing or speech impaired? Call via the National Relay Service on 133 677





# **Budget Highlights**

#### What we delivered in 2024-25

The 2024-25 financial year saw the delivery of a significant capital program with **over \$8.5m invested in the Fremantle community.** 

Notable projects completed include:

- Upgrades to the Town Hall balcony, electrical upgrades at the Moore's Building Art Space and commencement of facade works to 38-40 Henry Street
- High St, South St and other road upgrades
- Footpath upgrades at Attfield St, Field St, Wood St, Paget St, Swanbourne St, South St, Solomon St, Martha St and Leake St
- Orainage upgrades at Wongan Ave and Collick St
- Commencement of the commercial fit out of the Walyalup Civic Centre

- 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 federally funded Arts Centre Creative Hub
- Acquisition of two new public toilet facilities to be installed early in the 2025/26 financial year
- Over \$1.1 million was invested in the renewal of the City's plant, fleet and equipment including the procurement of a new footpath sweeper, pool vehicles, mowers and trucks to support the functions of Waste and Cleansing, Construction Maintenance, and Parks and 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 \$500,000 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 wellbeing

#### \$2 million

towards the delivery of arts, culture and festivals

### \$2 million

towards community safety

# Close to \$1 million

in economic development and activation related initiatives

Left to right: Funmantle in Walyalup Koort, Town Hall balcony restoration and community tree planting at Griffiths Park.

# **Your Rates and Charges**

The City of Fremantle will apply differential general rates and minimum payments for the 2025-26 financial year as summarised in the following table.

Differential rating category	Minimum payment	Rate in the dollar
Residential Improved	\$1,825	0.087664
Commercial and Industrial General	\$1,825	0.118877
City Centre Commercial	\$1,825	0.118877
Residential Short Term Accommodation	\$1,825	0.118835
Vacant Residential Land	\$1,770	0.151417
Vacant Commercial & Industrial	\$1,825	0.175327

# **Waste Charges and Specified Area Rate**

With the exception of residential rate exempt properties, the City includes the waste charge applicable to a single standard service collection within each property's rate levy. Exempt properties will incur waste charges of \$598.

Specified area rate	Purpose of the rate	Rate in the dollar
CBD Security Levy	A safety and security strategy for a specified area of the Fremantle CBD	0.0015288
Leighton Maintenance	To fund the above normal costs associated with maintaining the higher standard of landscaping of the Leighton residential area	0.0066140

# **Service Charges**

Service charges	Purpose of the charges	Amount of charge
Community bore	To fund the associated costs required to maintain the community bore within the WGV development	\$124
Hilton Underground Power*  Network fee Connection fee	Partially fund the replacement of the overhead network with a new underground system	Variable depending on payment arrangement
South Fremantle Underground Power**  Network fee Connection fee	Partially fund the replacement of the overhead network with a new underground system	As per below
Category	Transmission Charge per property	<b>Connection Charge per property</b> (if applicable)
Residential	\$	\$
Single residential	421.40	612
Multi Dwelling (2-4 units)	339.31	612
Multi Dwelling (5–10 units)	240.80	612
Multi Dwelling (10+ units)	218.91	612
Commercial/Industrial	\$	\$
Micro/Shop House - GRV under 50k	421.40	612
Small - GRV \$50k-\$100k	842.80	612
Medium – GRV \$100k-\$1m	1,264.20	612
Large - GRV over \$1m	1,685.60	612
Large art over \$1111	1,000.00	· ·-

<sup>\*</sup>fremantle.wa.gov.au/hiltonundergroundpower

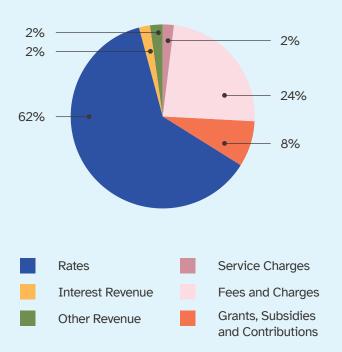
<sup>\*\*</sup>fremantle.wa.gov.au/tupp

# **About your rates**

Your rates are helping us build a vibrant and liveable city with great facilities, services and support for all. The City has developed a responsible and balanced budget that delivers for residents and ratepayers today while building a financially sustainable future.

# **Budget 2025-26 Operating Revenue**

The total operating revenue budget totals \$109 million and is comprised of:



# How rates are calculated

Rates are calculated by multiplying a property's valuation by the rate in the dollar set by Council. The valuation is determined by Landgate's Valuer General and is a Gross Rental Value (GRV).



#### Step 1

The City determines the amount of rate revenue needed to deliver the services, programs and activities we provide.



#### Step 2

We then work out how this cost should be spread across the City's rateable properties.



#### Step 3

We then multiply the rate in the dollar by your property's value to calculate your contribution.



For more information about how your rates are calculated, scan the QR code or visit

fremantle.wa.gov.au/rates-explained

# Why have my rates increased?

The second half of 2024-25 has indicated positive signs with the gradual return of inflation back towards the RBA's target band, enabling the City to impose a lower rate increase than the previous year.

However, as demonstrated in the latest WALGA Local Government Cost Index, latent cost pressures associated with the lag of economic conditions from the last three to four years continue to drive cost pressures across key areas of local government service delivery, and as such the City must remain focused on managing these costs.

While the City will have to continue to navigate these high costs for the delivery of construction and other services, we must also remain focused on investing in the renewal of our existing assets. To deliver the hundreds of programs, initiatives and activities that help our residents and visitors live, work and play in a city like nowhere else in the world, we need to ensure our revenue sources remain sustainable into the future.

# What if I don't agree with the valuation of my property?

If you feel that the valuation applied to your property is incorrect, you can lodge an objection with Landgate's Valuer General's Office within 60 days of the issue date of your rates notice.

# What is the Emergency Services Levy?

The Emergency Services Levy (ESL) helps fund WA's fire and emergency services, including fire stations, volunteer fire brigades, State Emergency Service (SES) units, the Volunteer Marine Rescue Service and the multi-purpose Volunteer Emergency Service Units. This levy is a State Government charge and is required to be collected on behalf of the Department of Fire and Emergency Service (DFES) by all Western Australia Local Government Authorities.

For more information, visit dfes.wa.gov.au/esl

# Where do your rates go?

The City of Fremantle works hard to deliver capital projects that benefit everyone - whether you live in the CBD or the suburbs, you run a local business or you've come for a visit. 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.

The majority of the capital projects budget is allocated to projects outside of our CBD reflecting the City's focus on investing in the suburbs.

# **Capital Project Highlights**

- \$3.2m towards Booyeembara Park Masterplan
   golf course/community facility
- \$2.6m for renewal and upgrade of roads
- \$2.3m across heritage assets
- \$1.8m towards irrigation systems
- \$1.75m for the Hilton Park Master Plan Northern Zone projects
- \$1.2m for the Henry St Facade upgrades
- \$1.1m for public toilet facilities at Collie Street
- \$1m towards the delivery of upgrades at Samson Park
- \$800k on playgrounds
- \$700k towards City buildings
- \$700k towards footpaths
- \$200k towards street lighting

# **Operational Expenses**

- \$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 community facilities and buildings
- \$2.3m towards the delivery of economic development, tourism marketing and investment attraction initiatives
- \$2.2m towards community safety
- \$2m towards the delivery of arts, culture and festivals

# Pensioners and Seniors Concessions

# **Pensioner Concession Card** *OR* **State Concession Card**

Rates Up to 50%, Capped \$750

Emergency Services Levy Up to 50%

Underground Power Up to 50%

May defer rates, emergency services levy, underground power

# WA Seniors Card AND Commonwealth Seniors Health Card

Rates Up to 50%, Capped \$750

Emergency Services Levy Up to 50%

Underground Power Up to 50%

May defer rates, emergency services levy, underground power

## **WA Seniors Card**

Rates Up to 25%, Capped \$100

Emergency Services Levy Up to 25%, Capped \$133.25

Underground Power

Up to 25%, Capped \$100 on charges raised for first year only

Cannot defer rates, emergency services levy, underground power

# How to apply for a Rates Rebate

There is a joint application form for Local Government rates, Water Corporation annual charges, emergency services levy and underground electricity connection charges rebates.

Eligibility for a State Government rebate or other benefits are subject to the card holder:

- A. Owning and occupying the property at 1 July of any rating year.
- B. Fully paying their portion of the rating assessment no later than 30 June of the rating year.
- C. For pensioners, commencement of an acceptable payment program in clearance of any arrears balances.

Applications are managed through the Water Corporation and are accepted over the phone on **1300 659 951** or at watercorporation.com.au



# South Fremantle Targeted Underground Power Program (TUPP)

The South Fremantle area is participating in Western Power's Targeted Underground Power Program (TUPP).

The targeted program seeks to implement an option to underground power in locations where Western Power is needing to update ageing infrastructure. Rather than just installing new poles and wires, they provide an option for residents to underground the infrastructure at a discounted rate to a normal underground power project.

Western Power is substantially subsidising the project by contributing 80% of the total project cost, meaning there will be a significantly reduced cost for residents.

The City of Fremantle is collecting the resident contribution via a service charge as part of annual rates notices over a seven-year period.

To learn more about the project, visit **fremantle.wa.gov.au/tupp**, email **tupp@fremantle.wa.gov.au** or scan the QR code.



# Changes to Short-Term Accommodation

The Western Australian Government has implemented changes to short stay accommodation regulations and registration is now required via the 'Short-Term Rental Accommodation Register' (State Register).

In accordance with the City's Objects and Reasons for implementing differential general rates, land zoned residential (where a purpose for which that land is held or used is for short-term accommodation) will be charged rates under the City's Residential Short-Term Accommodation differential rating classification.

As of 1 July 2025, if your property remains registered on the State Register, the City's Residential Short-Term Accommodation differential rating classification will apply to the rating assessment for your property for the 2025-26 financial year.

For more information, please refer to the State Government Short-Term Rental Accommodation Register. fremantle.wa.gov.au/shortstay



# We're entering A NEW ERA for Residential Parking Permits

In the coming months, the City's Parking team will be launching its digital residential parking permits.

This is an exciting change which will allow you to apply for and self-manage your residential parking permits online.

Our team is here to support you through the changes when they come into effect later this year.

For more information and the latest updates, visit fremantle.wa.gov.au/residentialparkingpermit







# Easy ways to pay

- Telephone 1300 658 371
- Visit fremantle.wa.gov.au/payments and make payments using **AMEX**, **Mastercard and Visa cards**. *Payment Limit* \$250,000 applies.
- **BPAY** via your bank or financial institution. You will find the biller code and reference number on your rates notice. *Payment Limit* \$250,000 applies.
- In person at Walyalup Civic Centre
   151 High Street, Fremantle, Walyalup Koort
   Open Monday to Friday, 8.30am-4.30pm
   In Person Credit Card Limit \$10,000 applies.
- Australia Post Office agency or branch (just present your rates notice to pay via EFTPOS, cash or cheque).

#### Go paper-free

Having your rates notices delivered directly to your inbox is not only more convenient, but also reduces paper waste.

To register for eRates, simply have your rates notice handy and complete the online form at **fremantle.wa.gov.au/erates** 

# Alternative payment arrangements

In certain circumstances, an alternative payment arrangement may be considered. You can request this in writing.

Please provide your property address and reference number. Any payment proposal should specify the commencement date, payment amount, frequency and date of final payment. Payments should be sufficient to ensure full payment occurs within a period of time acceptable to the City.

Scan the QR code or visit fremantle.wa.gov.au/payment-options to learn more about alternative payment arrangements.



# Flexible ways to pay

Choose from a variety of payment options.

# Pay in full

Pay in one lump sum by Friday 5 September 2025. This is the cheapest way to pay your rates.

#### Two instalments

Pay over two instalments

- Friday 5 September 2025
- Friday 16 January 2026

# Four instalments

Pay over four instalments

- Friday 5 September 2025
- Friday 14 November 2025
- Friday 16 January 2026
- Friday 20 March 2026

#### **Direct debit**

Take the hassle out of payments. Direct debit is the easiest way to manage your rates and payments can be made weekly or fortnightly and for all instalment options.

Register at **fremantle.wa.gov.au/paymyrates** or see your rates notice for more information on how to register and pay your rates by direct debit. Please see the updated Terms and Conditions online.

# Experiencing financial difficulties?

If you are experiencing financial hardship, financial counselling is a free community service available to all residents across WA. Financial counsellors can assist with:

- Money management strategies
- Advocate with creditors, and
- Provide information about your options and rights

You can find your nearest financial counsellor at fcawa.org or call the national debt helpline on 1800 007 007.

If you are experiencing difficulty paying your rates, please contact the City to discuss an alternative payment arrangement. We provide a number of payment options including instalment plans.

We also have a hardship policy to support those in our community who may be going through a tough time.

We are committed to finding the right solution for you, so contact our friendly team to see how we can help support you.

- **T** 1300 MY FREO (1300 693 736) 8am-4.30pm (Monday to Friday)
- E info@fremantle.wa.gov.au
- W fremantle.wa.gov.au

Alternative formats available upon request



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