



2026-27

Budget and Rates

fremantle.wa.gov.au

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 the lives of residents, support local businesses and enhance the experience of visitors.

The 2026-27 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 2025 indicated the arrival of more stable economic conditions, 2026 saw a return of economic headwinds. In light of this the City continues to remain focused on delivering financially responsible budgets that maintain the flexibility to be responsive to global economic volatility but continue to deliver on the objectives of our Strategic Community Plan.

In 2026-27, the City will increase rates by 5.5%. 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 2026-27 Budget, the City is committing to delivering the things that matter to residents and ratepayers today while building a financially stable future. To this end, the City continues to be guided by its 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–5pm (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 2025-26

Last financial year saw the delivery of a significant capital program with **\$16 million** invested in the Fremantle community. Notable projects completed include:

\$3.8m to renew and upgrade the City's buildings



\$2.2m in heritage assets



\$2.1m to renew and upgrade roads



\$550,000 for road safety and traffic calming initiatives



\$500,000 to renew and upgrade playgrounds



\$500,000 to deliver new CBD public toilets



\$400,000 to renew footpaths across the city



In addition to the capital program, the City delivered over **\$32 million** in operating activities (excluding staffing) over the 2025-26 financial year which included the following highlights:

\$6.8m to maintain parks and landscapes*



\$5.3m to manage waste and resource recovery



\$4m to maintain community facilities and buildings



\$3.6m to deliver arts and culture related programming and events, and maintain facilities



\$1.3m to deliver community safety operations and ranger patrols



*Including \$1.1 million for planting new and maintaining existing trees

Cover and above: Friends of Samson Park Volunteer Planting, photography by Duncan Wright

Your Rates and Charges

The City of Fremantle will apply differential general rates and minimum payments for the 2026-27 financial year as summarised in the following table.

Differential rating category	Minimum payment	Rate in the dollar
Residential Improved	\$1,925	0.071562
Commercial and Industrial General	\$1,925	0.109900
City Centre Commercial	\$1,925	0.109900
Residential Unhosted Short Term Accommodation	\$1,925	0.140000
Vacant Residential Land	\$1,925	0.143053
Vacant Commercial and Industrial	\$1,925	0.143053

Waste Charges

The city includes the waste collection charges for a standard service collection within each property's rate levy. Exempt residential rate properties incur waste charges of \$630.

Specified Area Rate

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	0.0016052
Leighton Maintenance	To fund the above normal costs associated with maintaining the higher standard of landscaping of the Leighton residential area	0.0069447

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	Connection Charge per property (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

*fremantle.wa.gov.au/hiltonundergroundpower

**fremantle.wa.gov.au/tupp

About Your Rates

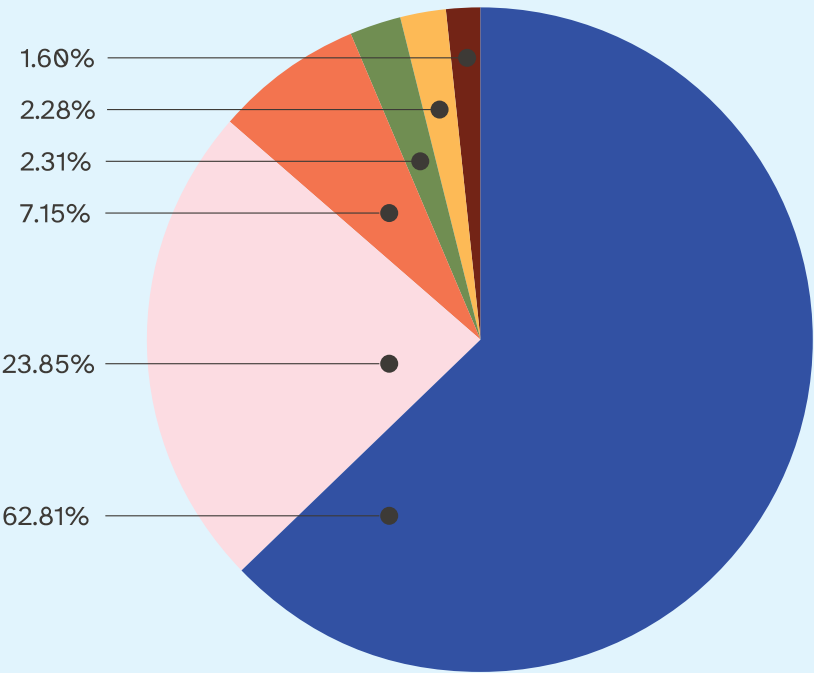
Your rates are helping us build and maintain a vibrant and liveable city with great facilities, services and support for all.

The City has developed a responsible and balanced budget that delivers for residents and ratepayers today while building a financially sustainable future.

Operating Revenue 2026-27 Budget

The total operating revenue budget totals **\$113 million** and is comprised of:

- Service Charges
- Interest Revenue
- Other Revenue
- Grants, Subsidies and Contributions
- Fees and Charges
- Rates



How Rates are Calculated

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

New valuations

Every three years the Valuer General conducts a revaluation of the Gross Rental Value (GRV) attributable to each property, and 2026-27 is a revaluation year.

Given the time it takes to determine the GRV for all properties, there is an elapsed time between the date of valuation 1 August 2024 and the effective date 1 July 2026, when the valuation can be applied to rates or charges.

Why has my rates bill changed?

Due to the strength of the Western Australian property market, this year's revaluation has seen a relatively strong increase in GRVs across most properties within the City.

Property values do not all change by the same amount. While most properties across the City have increased in value, some have increased more than others. As a result, your rates bill depends not only on the change in your property's valuation, but also on how that change compares with other properties across the City.

To help reduce the impact of these valuation changes, the City is adjusting the rate in the dollar (RID) in each rate category to ensure rates generally remain within current levels and to keep the average increase per property in line with the general increase to rating revenue required to be raised.

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

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.

Landgate Customer Service

T +61 (08) 9273 373 W landgate.wa.gov.au/valuations

Rates calculation process



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 Gross Rental 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

Where Do Your Rates Go?

The City of Fremantle works hard to deliver services and 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 2026-27 financial year is no different, with the delivery of a balanced and fiscally responsible budget.

Capital Project Highlights

- **\$4.7m** for Hilton Park Master Plan Projects
- **\$1.55m** for Samson Park Master Plan Projects
- **\$600k** for pedestrian crossings at Douro Road and South Terrace roundabout
- **\$300k** for drainage works at the Fremantle Town Hall
- **\$250k** for forward works on South Beach dog beach toilets
- **\$200k** for public toilets at Pioneer Park
- **\$4.1m** for roads and road safety
- **\$1.4m** for plant, equipment and vehicles
- **\$1.1m** for footpaths
- **\$917k** for buildings
- **\$715k** for playground upgrades
- **\$483k** for irrigation
- **\$350k** for drainage
- **\$260k** for bike projects
- **\$250k** for street lighting
- **\$250k** for asbestos removal

Operational Expenses

- **\$15.2m** towards the operation of our key community facilities including the Fremantle Library, Fremantle Leisure Centre, Walyalup 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
- **\$12.7m** towards parks, landscapes and natural areas
- **\$10.1m** towards the delivery of waste and resource recovery initiatives
- **\$7.3m** towards the ongoing maintenance of our buildings and facilities
- **\$3.2m** towards the delivery of economic development, business support, tourism marketing, visitor servicing and investment attraction initiatives
- **\$2.2m** towards the delivery of arts, culture and festivals
- **\$2.2m** towards community safety

South Fremantle Targeted Underground Power Program (TUPP)

The 2026-27 financial year will see the continuation of the TUPP being delivered by Western Power for the South Fremantle and Fremantle South project area.

The targeted program implements underground power in locations where Western Power is needing to update ageing infrastructure. Rather than just installing new poles and wires, they provide residents with underground 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 by scanning the QR code, or email infracomp@fremantle.wa.gov.au

Changes to Unhosted 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 Unhosted Short-Term Accommodation differential rating classification.

As of 1 July 2026, if your property is registered as unhosted accommodation, the City's Residential Unhosted Short-Term Accommodation differential rating classification will apply to the rating assessment for your property for the 2026-27 financial year.



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

Pensioners and Seniors Concessions

- Pensioner Concession Card
- State Concession Card
- WA Seniors 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 \$140

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 online at **watercorporation.com.au**

Why Have My Rates Increased Overall?

Costs to the City typically increase annually as a result of inflation and other economic factors. This year the City is anticipating and planning for higher-than-normal increases to the cost-of-service delivery as a result of global supply chain disruptions that have occurred over the past 6 months.

To cover these increases, the City is required to increase rate revenue in order to remain financially sustainable and continue to deliver the hundreds of programs, initiatives and activities that help our residents and visitors live, work and play in Fremantle.

However, the City acknowledges that parts of the community have been and will continue to be impacted by current cost of living pressures being faced across the Western Australian economy, which is why the rate increase for 2026-27 has been contained to 5.5%. The intent being that this is in line with or close to the Perth Consumer Price Index at time of budget adoption.

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.

The ESL is a State Government charge applicable to all land in WA and is invoiced and collected by local governments on behalf of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES). The ESL provides the majority of funding required for the emergency services provided by DFES, and for local government Bushfire Brigades and SES units. The amount of ESL to be collected, and the applicable rates and charging parameters, are declared annually by the Minister for Emergency Services.

For more information, call 1300 136 099 or visit dfes.wa.gov.au/esl



How to Pay

Pay in full

Pay in one lump sum by Friday 11 September 2026.
This is the cheapest way to pay your rates.

Four instalments

Pay over four instalments:

- Friday 11 September 2026
- Friday 13 November 2026
- Friday 15 January 2027
- Friday 19 March 2027

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.

Payment methods

- Telephone - 1300 658 371
- Visit fremantle.wa.gov.au/payments and make payments using **AMEX, Mastercard and Visa cards**.
Please note: surcharge applies until 1 October 2026
- **BPAY** via your bank or financial institution. You will find the biller code and reference number on your rates notice.
- **In person** at Walyalup Civic Centre
151 High Street, Fremantle, Walyalup Koort
Open Monday to Friday, 8.30am–4.30pm (cashier hours)
- **Australia Post Office** agency or branch (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, providing 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.

Please note all payment arrangements will end on the 30 June 2027.



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

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.

Alternatively, please contact the City to discuss a payment arrangement. We provide a number of payment options including instalment plans.

We also have a Financial 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–5pm (Monday to Friday)

E info@fremantle.wa.gov.au

W fremantle.wa.gov.au/online-services



Scan the QR code to submit your rates enquiry to our friendly Customer Service Team

Alternative formats available upon request

Connect with your City

facebook.com/cityoffremantle

instagram.com/cityoffremantle

linkedin.com/company/city-of-fremantle



CITY OF

Fremantle