



Meeting attachments

Strategic and General Services Committee

Wednesday 9 September 2026 6pm

SGSC2609-3 DRAFT CLIMATE ACTION FRAMEWORK
1. Draft Climate Action Framework.....2

SGSC2609-4 SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM UPDATE
1. CEWG Actions Shortlist 202614

SGSC2609-5 DRAFT COUNCIL POLICY - GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIP
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Climate Action Framework 2026-2031 (Draft Only)

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Introduction

The Climate Action Framework is intended to reflect the breadth and complexity of the sustainability and climate action agenda across the City. While setting a distinct vision and direction, the Framework allows a level of adaptability and durability into the future.

This Framework establishes the City's overarching vision, principles and priorities for climate action and sustainability. It provides the strategic architecture under which more detailed, theme-specific strategies, policies and action plans can be developed, endorsed and reviewed on their own timelines. This includes existing strategies already in place, as well as future strategies to be developed. The framework outlines five themes, spanning differing levels of organisational control, timeframes and delivery mechanisms.

Vision

Our vision for Fremantle is for a resilient city, that plans for the future and is empowered to act on climate change.

Purpose

The purpose of this framework is to support the priorities of the Strategic Community Plan and ensure the City is meeting the Council's commitments towards a Net-Zero future, while ensuring best practice for all people, economies and Country. The Framework establishes *the City's overarching vision, principles and thematic structure for climate action and sustainability. It provides the strategic architecture under which more detailed, theme-specific strategies, policies and action plans can be developed, endorsed and reviewed on their own timelines.* Five key themes have been outlined, noting a vision for each.

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Background

Climate change is one of the defining challenges of our time, with impacts already being felt across communities, ecosystems and economies worldwide. Driven by increasing greenhouse gas emissions, the changing climate is contributing to more frequent and severe extreme weather events, rising sea levels, biodiversity loss and growing risks to human health and wellbeing. While global action is essential to limit future warming, meaningful progress also depends on action at the local level, where governments play a critical role in reducing emissions, building resilience and supporting communities to adapt to a changing climate.

A number of significant global and national developments have shaped the direction of climate action, setting precedents that continue to influence policy and practice at the local level. These include:

- UN General Assembly Climate Change resolution adopted in May 2026
- ICJ Advisory Opinion on Climate Change 2025
- Australian Government passed Climate Change Act, outlining Australia's commitment to achieving net zero emissions by 2050
- The Paris Agreement adopted in 2015 (a legally binding treaty on climate change).
- UN Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015

Over the years, the City has achieved a number of key milestones and achievements. These include:

- Net Zero commitment adopted 2023 (Net Zero by 2050, 43% reduction by 2030)
- Climate Emergency Position Statement 2021
- WALGA Climate Change Declaration 2019
- Accredited as a One Planet Living City 2015-2025
- WALGA Power Purchase Agreement
- Solar PV upgrades on key facilities
- Procurement of Electric Vehicles
- Systematic upgrades to LED lighting

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Climate Emergency Position Statement

The City of Fremantle acknowledges the science-based recommendations in reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that outline the severity of the state of emergency we are in, including that the City of Fremantle is likely to be substantially affected by climate impacts, particularly sea level rise, heat waves, drought and floods. 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 drawdown greenhouse gas emissions. Any action should align with the Paris Agreement, which aims to cap global heating at 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Climate Change: What is it?

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in global temperatures and weather patterns, driven primarily by human activity. The burning of fossil fuels, land clearing and industrial processes have accelerated the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, trapping heat and disrupting the natural systems that sustain life on Earth. The effects; rising sea levels, more frequent and severe weather events and declining biodiversity are already being felt across the globe, including here in our own community.

Climate change is a global challenge, one that transcends borders, jurisdictions and sectors. Yet global change begins with local action. Addressing it effectively requires commitment at every level, from international agreements and national policy through to the decisions made by local governments, businesses, and individuals every day.

Climate Action at the City

For us, climate action means actively reducing corporate greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening resilience to climate impacts and embedding climate considerations into all aspects of decision making, aligning with global commitments and acting with environmental and social responsibility.

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Strategic integration

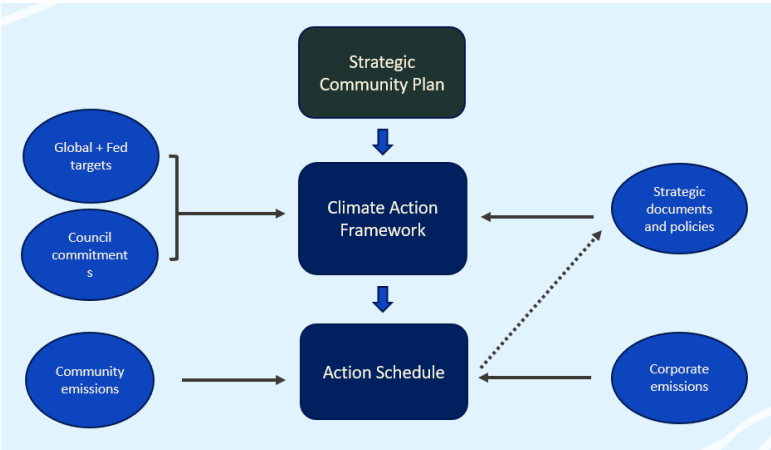
Strategic Community Plan

The City’s Strategic Community Plan 2024-2034 establishes the long-term aspirations, vision, objectives and outcomes for the local community over the period of the plan. This plan identifies ‘what’ the City is aiming to achieve. The Plan consists of five key focus areas: a liveable city, a creative city, a thriving city, an inclusive city and a resilient city. While sustainability and climate action needs to be integrated into all aspects of corporate planning, the framework has been developed to deliver the desired outcomes outlined under Resilient City. The Strategic Community Plan can be read on the City’s website.

Climate Action Framework Outline

The Framework establishes the City's overarching vision, principles and thematic structure for climate action and sustainability, delivering on the agenda for a ‘resilient city’. It is also guided by international agendas, federal directives and local movements.

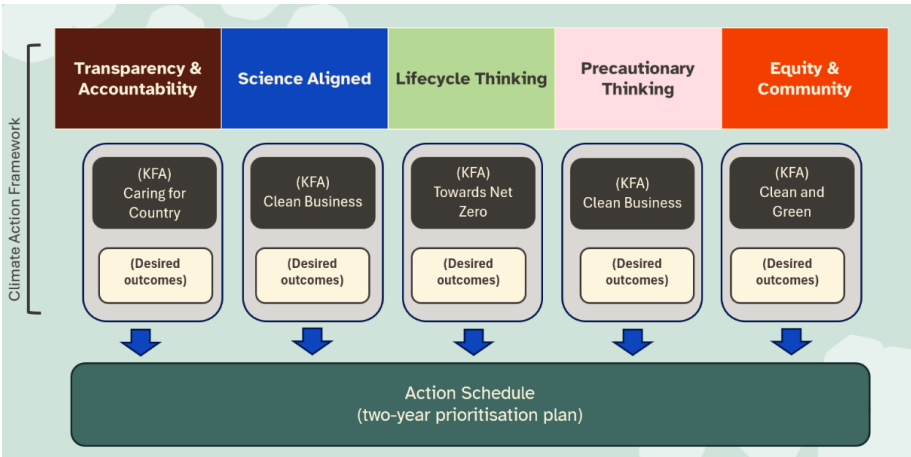
Rather than a detailed strategy document, the framework aims to give practical guidance to achieve the overarching vision. It outlines strategic principles, key themes and desired outcomes. An annual Action Plan will be developed to prioritise and deliver key actions aligned with outcomes set out in the Framework.



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Framework Structure



The Framework will guide how sustainability and climate considerations are embedded into the City's decision-making, planning and operations. While lead by the City's Sustainability team, the framework is designed to be adopted across all business units, informing how services are delivered, how projects are planned and how resources are allocated.

Principles

The principles guide decision making and operations. They ensure that every action we take supports sustainable and climate-sensitive outcomes.

Transparency & Accountability	Science Aligned	Lifecycle Thinking	Precautionary Approach	Equity & Community
Climate commitments, actions, progress and challenges are communicated openly and clearly with stakeholders. Plans are followed up with responsible action.	Decision making considers data, research and scientific evidence on climate change and climate mitigation and prioritises outcomes that produce measurable emission reduction, climate resilience or long-term sustainability.	Consider the full environmental, social, and economic impacts of decisions across the lifecycle of assets, infrastructure, services, and procurement activities.	Planning and decision-making will prioritise risk reduction, resilience, and long-term community benefit rather than delaying action until climate impacts become critical or fully certain.	Accessibility, affordability, public health and community wellbeing are considered and prioritised. Outcomes should seek to enhance equity, community resilience, understanding and support in the face of climate change impacts.

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Key Themes Summary

The Framework identifies five priority areas or ‘key themes’. These are targeted work areas, each with clear desired outcomes that direct action.

These key themes represent the strategic direction and priorities for building a sustainable and climate-responsible City.



Caring for Country	Clean Economies	Towards Net Zero	Empower the Community	Clean and Green
<i>Focuses on cultural knowledge and natural systems</i>	<i>Focuses on governance, economic development and industry</i>	<i>Focuses on numbers (carbon reduction)</i>	<i>Focuses on participation, collaboration and socially-centric outcomes</i>	<i>Focuses on resilience, urban greening and the built environment.</i>
Strengthen partnerships with Traditional Owners to co-design environmental management and land use decisions.	Position the city as an attractive location for green industry, innovation, and sustainable investment.	Reduce corporate emissions in line with science-based targets.	Build community knowledge, capacity and confidence to take climate action at home and locally.	Ensure new development and existing infrastructure are climate-resilient, energy-efficient, and environmentally sustainable.

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Protect and enhance biodiversity and natural systems as core climate infrastructure, guided by First Nations knowledge.	Enable local businesses to reduce emissions and resource use through council-led support, incentives or procurement.	Support the community to decarbonise	Foster a climate-resilient community through education, engagement, and grassroots leadership.	
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Key Theme: Caring for Country

Caring for Country recognises that genuine climate resilience begins with respecting and learning from the world's oldest continuous land management practices. Aboriginal peoples have cared for this land for tens of thousands of years, holding knowledge systems that are deeply relevant to how we understand and respond to environmental change today. The City is committed to embedding First Nations knowledge and leadership into environmental decision-making and to recognising Country; its land, waterways, and ecosystems, as living systems that underpins the City's broader climate resilience.

Desired outcomes:

- Strengthen partnerships with Traditional Owners to co-design environmental management and land use decisions
- Protect and enhance biodiversity and natural systems as core climate infrastructure, guided by First Nations knowledge

Key Theme: Clean Economies

The transition to a sustainable future is also an economic opportunity. As industries adapt to a lower-carbon world, the City has a role to play in supporting local businesses to remain competitive, resilient and future-ready, while positioning the City as a place where sustainable investment, innovation and green industry can thrive. This theme focuses on economic transition, business capability and supporting Towards Net Zero outcomes.

Desired outcomes:

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- Support low-carbon, circular local economy initiatives that creates local jobs and business opportunities.
- Support local businesses to reduce emissions and resource use through council-led support, incentives and sustainable procurement practices

Key Theme: Towards Net Zero

Towards Net Zero reflects the City's existing commitment to measurable, accountable action on carbon emission reduction. To prioritise our emission targets the City is invested in improving reporting and tracking progress across our corporate operations and the broader community.

Desired outcomes:

- Achieve net zero emissions across Council operations by 2050
- Support the community to reduce emissions and lead low-carbon lifestyles.

Key Theme: Empower the Community

Taking action on climate change requires everyone to be involved and depends on individuals, businesses and community groups having the knowledge, confidence and opportunity to take part.

Desired outcomes:

- Build community knowledge, capacity and confidence to take on climate change, resilience and connection within communities.

Key Theme: Clean and Green Spaces

Our built environment shapes the way we live, feel and function but it also has the potential to influence community resilience and connection and mitigate environmental impacts. The City is focused on ensuring new developments and public infrastructure are designed and delivered to meet our environmental, social and economic standards.

Desired outcomes:

- Ensure new development and existing infrastructure are climate resilient, energy efficient and environmentally sustainable.
- Drive best practice sustainable design and construction standards across public and private development.

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Supporting documents

The desired outcomes outlined above are not new objectives, they build on and reflect an extensive body of work already underway across the organisation. The documents listed below demonstrate this by supporting delivery of these outcomes and signify the City's existing commitment to climate and sustainability. While documents are listed under specific theme areas, many of these are multidisciplinary and cross over multiple key themes.

Caring for Country	Clean Economies	Towards Net Zero	Empower the Community	Clean and Green Spaces
Reconciliation Action Plan	Economic Development Strategy	Carbon Emission Reduction Strategy	Age Friendly Plan	Greening Fremantle Strategy
Aboriginal Engagement Plan	Destination Development Plan	Corporate Energy Plan	Public Open Space Strategy	Bike Plan City Plan
			Arts Culture & Creative Action Plan	Urban Forest Plan

Action Plan

An Action Plan will be developed to guide implementation and ensure desired outcomes have strategic actions in place to deliver them. The Action Plan will set out specific actions, responsibilities, timeframes and performance measures against each of the five themes, providing a clear and accountable pathway for implementation. Reviewing the Action Plan on an annual basis will allow the City to respond to emerging priorities, funding opportunities, and changing circumstances, while ensuring that progress against the Framework's outcomes remains transparent and measurable over time. The Action Plan will be developed with input from each Directorate.

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Reporting and Review

Annual reporting will be delivered to Council, reporting on achievements against the Action Plan and aligned with desired outcomes of the Framework. Ongoing communications will be delivered to the community to ensure transparency and accountability.

A strategic review of the Framework will take place every four years.

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	Action ID	Action Description	Status
Active Transport	1.1	Advocate to Fremantle Ports and its users/providers regarding their opportunities to reduce emissions and pollution and improve air quality in their operations. These opportunities include supporting the Clean Freight for Freo Initiative and encouraging the electrification of cruise ship terminals.	Completed in 2025/26
	1.2	Advocate for the creation of a Fremantle Free Transit Zone in the Fremantle city centre.	Completed in 2025/26
	1.3	Implement the Safe Streets program and improvements to the city's bike network to make cycling and walking safer and more accessible.	Recommend to continue as priority for 2026/27
Energy + Development	2.1	Support the community to Electrify Everything through partnerships with Rewire Australia and becoming part of the Electric Communities Network.	Recommend to continue as priority for 2026/27
	2.2	Promote opportunities for the community to implement onsite solar power, purchased GreenPower and/or application to the WA Residential Battery Scheme.	Incorporate within 2.1 above for priority in 2026/27
Circular Economy	3.1	Undertake analysis of the scale and potential reach of the sharing economy to benefit residents by encouraging reuse, repair and reduce (e.g. through repair labs, neighbour swap events, tool libraries and toy libraries.)	
	3.2	Promote Containers for Change to the hospitality industry.	
Climate Leadership	4.1	Provide climate change and sustainability educational outreach opportunities to schools and community groups.	
	4.2	Support climate-related projects through a broad-based grants program focussed on youth and community engagement.	Recommend as priority for 2026/27
	4.3	Develop the City's website to be the go-to hub for all things sustainability (Community Emissions information, grants and funding opportunities, meet ups, groups, events and news)	Recommend as priority for 2026/27



Council Policy

Grants and Sponsorships

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Grants and Sponsorships Policy

Policy scope

This policy applies to all discretionary financial assistance provided by the City of Fremantle to external organisations and individuals through grants, sponsorships and partnerships, donations, rebates, and in-kind support.

Exclusions: Statutory rates exemptions, statutory fees and charges, procurement contracts for goods and services, and third-party funded grants auspiced by the City.

Note: Discretionary rates concessions provided under the Local Government Act 1995 are included within the scope of this policy. Fee waivers on City services and facilities are also included — see Section 4.

Policy statement

The City of Fremantle (the City) recognises that community groups, organisations, businesses and individuals are essential partners in realising our vision of a vibrant, inclusive, resilient and creative city.

Through grants and sponsorships, the City aims to:

1. Support diverse projects and initiatives responding to community needs.
2. Generate economic and social benefits for the business community.
3. Contribute to Strategic Community Plan aspirations.
4. Ensure transparent, equitable and accountable use of public funds.
5. Build capacity and community sustainability.

1. Financial assistance categories

The City categorises financial assistance into three tiers based on total funding value, including both cash and in-kind contributions. Requirements increase with the level of support provided. Detailed application, assessment, approval and acquittal requirements for each tier are outlined in the relevant Program Guidelines.

Tier 1: Major grants and sponsorships (above \$10,000)

- Tier 1 arrangements are typically partnership-based. Total City support, including in-kind contributions, is negotiated and confirmed through the funding agreement process.

Tier 2: Minor grants and sponsorships (\$1,001 to \$10,000)

- Applicants should declare any City in-kind support requested. Where in-kind contributions identified during assessment would affect tier classification, the City will advise the applicant.

Tier 3: Donations, rebates and minor partnerships (up to \$1,000)

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- In-kind support at this tier is limited to fee waivers. Total City support including any in-kind contribution must not exceed \$1,000.

All in-kind contributions are assigned a monetary value for the purposes of tier classification, funding agreements, and annual reporting.

2. Programs and guidelines

The City administers grants and sponsorships through specific programs, each with its own Guidelines setting out eligibility, application, assessment, approval and acquittal requirements consistent with this policy.

All programs are reviewed annually and subject to the City's budget process. Program Guidelines are publicly available on the City's website.

3. Delegated authority and expenditure

Delegated authority is made under the Local Government Act 1995 and recorded in the City's Register of Delegated Authority.

4. Fee waivers

The City may waive fees and charges applicable to City services, facilities, or approvals in support of funded activities, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1995 and the City's Register of Delegated Authority.

Fee waivers may be provided as a standalone form of assistance or as a component of a broader funding agreement. In all cases:

- Fee waivers must be approved by an officer with delegated authority under the City's Register of Delegated Authority.
- The value of any fee waiver is calculated at the standard schedule of rates and included in the total City support value for tier classification and reporting purposes.
- Fee waivers forming part of a funding agreement are documented in that agreement and subject to the same acquittal requirements as other forms of City support.
- All fee waivers are reported in the City's annual financial assistance report.

5. Eligibility requirements

5.1 General eligibility

Applications must be submitted before project commencement (except for rebate programs). Projects must be delivered within the City or demonstrate a clear contribution to the Strategic Community Plan and deliver benefit to the Fremantle community. Applicants must demonstrate they can deliver the project.

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5.2 Ineligible applicants

The City will not consider applications from:

- Political parties or organisations whose primary purpose is political lobbying.
- City elected members or employees, or their immediate family members, except where associated with an eligible organisation and any conflict of interest is appropriately managed.
- Applicants with outstanding City debts or engaged in legal action against the City.
- Applicants who have not satisfactorily acquitted previous City funding.
- Applicants whose conduct or values are inconsistent with the City's adopted values and commitments.

5.3 Funding principles

The City aims to ensure public funds are used equitably and transparently. In applying this policy:

- City funding is intended to support projects, not recurrent organisational costs such as ongoing salaries or administrative overheads.
- The City avoids duplicating support for the same project through multiple funding programs. Detailed eligibility rules, including how different forms of City support interact, are set out in the relevant Program Guidelines.
- The City takes a whole-of-organisation view when assessing and reporting financial assistance. The total value of all support provided to a single organisation — including cash grants, fee waivers, in-kind contributions, and discretionary rates concessions — is assessed and disclosed as a combined figure.
- Where the combined annual value of City support to a single organisation exceeds \$50,000 (excluding rates concessions approved through the annual budget process), Council approval is required.
- Rates concessions are treated as a form of financial assistance and are included in total City support for the purposes of transparency, cumulative assessment, and annual reporting. However, where rates concessions have been approved through the City's annual budget process, they do not, on their own, trigger the requirement for Council approval under the \$50,000 threshold.
- Current recipients must not use an existing funding relationship as the basis for soliciting additional City expenditure outside the terms of their funding agreement.

5.4 Applicant conduct

Applicants who lobby or attempt to influence elected members or employees regarding their application will become ineligible.

6. Conflict of interest

All officers involved in assessment or approval must declare conflicts of interest in accordance with the Local Government Act 1995 and the City's Code of Conduct. Individuals with declared conflicts must not participate in assessment or decision-making for that application unless they can demonstrate impartiality or the Chief

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Executive Officer provides an exemption.

7. Application and assessment

All applications are assessed in accordance with procedural fairness and merit-based criteria as outlined in the relevant Program Guidelines. Assessment records must be retained per the State Records Act 2000.

Funding requests outside this policy or the approved budget require Council consideration.

The City may proactively invite applications or proposals from organisations whose activities align with specific strategic objectives. Funding agreements with these organisations are subject to this policy.

8. Multi-year funding

Multi-year funding agreements will be considered. Agreements generally do not exceed three years. Multi-year commitments are subject to annual budget appropriation and do not obligate the City to provide funding in subsequent years unless explicitly approved by Council.

9. Funding agreements and acquittals

Successful applicants must enter into a funding agreement before release of funds, outlining terms, conditions, deliverables, and acquittal requirements. All funding must be acquitted before further funding is released. Acquittal outcomes inform future funding considerations.

10. Variations and compliance

Recipients must seek written approval for significant variations to funded projects including changes to scope, budget, timelines, or key personnel.

10.1 Breach of agreement

The City may withhold payment, require repayment, deem recipient ineligible for future funding, or take legal action to recover funds where agreements are breached.

10.2 Fraud and misuse

Suspected fraud or misuse will be investigated per the City's policies and procedures and may be referred to authorities. Recipients found to have misused funding must repay all funds and become ineligible for future funding.

10.3 Termination of funding agreements

The City reserves the right to suspend or cancel funding, and/or terminate any funding agreement, if the recipient is involved in any incident, conduct, or matter that brings the individual, group or organisation into disrepute or has the potential to cause reputational harm to the City of Fremantle.

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11. Transparency and accountability

11.1 Annual Reporting

The City prepares an annual information report listing all financial assistance provided, including recipient names, funding amounts (cash and in-kind), project purposes, and funding categories. The report is published on the City's website.

11.2 Council Reporting

An annual summary report to Council includes total expenditure by tier and category, application statistics, outcomes analysis, and recommendations for improvements.

11.3 Freedom of Information

All records are subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* and managed per City procedures.

11.4 Public Promotion

The City may publicly promote grants and sponsorships through various communications channels.

12. Review and appeals

Applicants may request feedback on unsuccessful applications or seek a review on grounds of procedural error, failure to consider relevant information, or bias. Reviews do not affect rights under the Local Government Act 1995 or other legislation.

13. Recognition requirements

Recipients must acknowledge City support in accordance with their funding agreement. Recognition requirements by tier are outlined in the relevant Program Guidelines.

14. Record keeping

All records are managed per the State Records Act 2000 and the City's Record Keeping Plan, including applications, assessments, agreements, acquittals, correspondence, and compliance actions.

15. Policy review

This policy is reviewed every four years or as required by legislative changes or City strategic priorities. Effectiveness is monitored through annual Council reporting, process reviews, community feedback, and benchmarking.

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Related documents

- The *Local Government Act 1995* and regulations
- City of Fremantle Strategic Community Plan
- City of Fremantle Register of Delegated Authority
- Grants and Sponsorship Program Guidelines
- Rates Concessions for Community Groups and Clubs — Process Guidelines
- Code of Conduct for Employees
- Fraud and Corruption Control Policy
- Record Keeping Plan
- Freedom of Information Procedures
- City of Fremantle Privacy (PRIS) Council Policy and Statement

Definitions and abbreviations

Acquittal - A written report submitted after the funded project is complete, detailing how funds were administered and project outcomes met. For rates concessions, an annual performance report fulfils the acquittal requirement in lieu of a financial acquittal. Requirements vary by tier and are outlined in the relevant Program Guidelines.

Auspice - An incorporated organisation that receives, administers and acquits City funding on behalf of an applicant.

Council - Council of the City of Fremantle

Grant - Cash or in-kind support provided through a specific funding program for a specified project or purpose as outlined in the funding agreement.

Project - A service, event, activity, program or other operational function for which an organisation or individual may seek assistance.

Rates concession - Discretionary financial assistance provided by Council in the form of a partial or full reduction of rates liability under section 6.47 of the Local Government Act 1995. Rates concessions are included within the scope of this policy and counted as part of total City support for the purposes of tier classification, combined support assessment, and annual reporting. Distinct from a statutory rates exemption.

Rates exemption - A statutory determination under section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995 that land is non-rateable. Eligibility is determined by legislative criteria rather than discretionary assessment. Rates exemptions are excluded from the scope of this policy.

Rebate - A partial refund of up to 50% of an approved eligible cost, capped at the maximum program amount.

Sponsorship - Cash and/or in-kind support provided by the City to an external party where the City and/or its community receive a direct or indirect benefit.

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Unincorporated Community Group - A group of people acting together for a shared purpose. Where successful for funding, an individual representative must personally sign the funding agreement or an auspice must enter the agreement on the group's behalf.

Value In-kind - Any non-cash contribution provided by the City in support of an approved activity, including foregone revenue on City services or facilities that would normally attract a fee, and City resources such as staff time, assets, equipment, or communications support. All in-kind contributions are assigned a monetary value for reporting purposes.

Responsibility and review information	
Responsible officer:	Manager Community Development
Document adoption/approval details	
Document amendment details	
Next review date	Within four years of adoption of this revision



Rates Exemptions and Community Group Rates Concessions Guidelines 2026/2027

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Overview

The City of Fremantle provides community groups, organisations, businesses and individuals a range of funding opportunities to bring to life our vision of a vibrant, inclusive, resilient and creative city.

Under section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995 (WA), eligible organisations may apply for a statutory rates exemption where the land satisfies the criteria set out in the Act. For organisations that do not meet the legislative requirements for exemption, the Community Group Rates Concession Program provides a secondary pathway for support. The program is a form of community investment that provides discretionary rates assistance to eligible not-for-profit organisations whose activities demonstrate measurable community benefit and alignment with the City's strategic priorities.

Standard criteria

These guidelines operate within the framework of the City's Grants and Sponsorships Policy. Concession decisions are made in accordance with the policy's principles of transparency, accountability and equitable use of public funds, with approval pathways and reporting requirements set out in these guidelines.

The City will not fund:

- Applicants who lobby or attempt to influence elected members or employees regarding their application.
- Political parties or organisations whose primary purpose is lobbying.
- City elected members or employees (not including casual employees) or their immediate family (except where associated with an eligible organisation and any conflict of interest is appropriately managed).
- Applicants with outstanding City debts or engaged in legal action against the City.
- Applicants who have not satisfactorily acquitted previous City funding.
- Applicants whose conduct or values are inconsistent with the City's adopted values and commitments.

City support interactions

Applicants must disclose any current or pending City grants, sponsorships, fee waivers, rates concessions or other in-kind support relevant to the organisation.

The City takes a whole-of-organisation approach when assessing financial assistance. Rates concessions form part of the recipient's total City support and may be considered alongside other forms of City assistance for assessment, reporting and transparency purposes.

Receipt of a rates concession does not prevent an applicant from seeking support through other City funding programs, subject to the requirements of those programs and the Grants and Sponsorships Policy.

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Section 1: Statutory Rates Exemptions (LGA WA s6.26)

Section purpose

This section provides an overview of the eligibility requirements, application process, and assessment criteria for land that may be classified as non-rateable under section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act 1995 (WA)*. Applications made for a rates exemption under LGA s6.26 that are approved will be assigned a full or partial non-rateable status.

Eligibility criteria

Applications may be submitted by organisations seeking recognition that their land is non-rateable under LGA s6.26.

Land may be eligible for exemption where it falls within one of the categories specified in section 6.26, including land that is:

- Used or held exclusively by a religious body for prescribed religious purposes;
- Used exclusively as a non-government school;
- Used exclusively for charitable purposes; or
- Otherwise exempt under section 6.26 or another written law.

Eligibility is determined based on the ownership, occupation and use of the land, rather than the status of the organisation alone.

Refer to the Local Government Act 1995 (WA) for full details.

Ownership, occupation and use of land

To qualify as non-rateable under section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995 (WA), an applicant must demonstrate that:

- The land falls within one of the exemption categories specified in section 6.26; and
- The land is owned, held, occupied or used in a manner consistent with the relevant exemption category; and
- The land is used exclusively for the exempt purpose.

The City may request supporting information to assess the nature and extent of the land use.

Any use of the land that is non-qualifying, incidental, or commercial in nature may affect eligibility.

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Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995 (WA)*. In determining whether land is non-rateable, the City will consider:

- Whether the land meets the statutory definition under section 6.26.
- The nature and purpose of activities conducted on the land.
- Whether the land is used exclusively for a qualifying purpose.
- The extent to which any non-qualifying use occurs.

Mixed-use land

Where a property is used for both exempt and non-exempt purposes, the City may consider a partial rate exemption if a clearly identifiable part of the property meets the requirements of section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Any partial exemption will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the extent of the exempt use and whether the exempt and non-exempt areas can be reasonably identified and separated.

The City may seek information or advice from the Valuer-General to assist with determining an appropriate apportionment. Where the exempt and non-exempt uses cannot be reasonably separated, a partial exemption may not be possible.

Application process

Applicants must:

1. Complete the prescribed application for rates exemption form available on the City's website.
2. Provide all required supporting documentation and sufficient evidence to support the application.
3. Submit the application via the approved lodgement method (e.g. via email).

Ongoing obligations

Organisations with approved exemptions must:

- Notify the City of any change in ownership, occupation, or land use.
- Continue to meet the eligibility requirements under section 6.26.
- Provide updated information upon request or as part of periodic review processes.

Failure to meet these obligations may result in the removal of the exemption.

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Review of decisions

Decisions made under section 6.26 are subject to review. Applicants may:

- Request clarification or reconsideration from the City; and
- Seek an external review through the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) where applicable.

Relationship to other assistance

This statutory exemption is distinct from any rates concessions, rebates, or financial assistance offered by the City. While section 6.26 determines whether land is legally non-rateable, other forms of support may be provided at the discretion of Council under separate policies and programs.

Section 2: Community Group Rates Concession Program (LGA WA s6.47)

Section purpose

This section outlines the process for eligible community organisations to be considered for a rates concession under section 6.47 of the *Local Government Act 1995 (WA)*. This may occur where an application for a statutory rates exemption under section 6.26 has been declined, or where a community group such as a sporting club is not eligible for a rates exemption under section 6.26. Eligible community organisations can apply for a Community Group Rates Concession that will be assessed by the City's Community Development team.

Objectives

- Support organisations delivering demonstrable community benefit.
- Increase access and participation in community activities.
- Support activation of community facilities and places.
- Encourage volunteering and inclusion.
- Provide targeted financial assistance where community outcomes justify support.

Eligibility criteria

Where an organisation does not meet the rates exemption criteria under section 6.26, or where it is reasonably apparent that exemption criteria cannot be satisfied, but still provides demonstrable community benefit, the organisation may be considered for assistance under the Community Group Rates Concession program.

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Minimum concession eligibility

- Incorporated group or not-for-profit (or equivalent charitable status) with a copy of the organisation's current certificate of incorporation provided.
- Provision of a copy of the organisation's constitution.
- Provision of a copy of the organisation's current or most recent audited financial statements where available, or otherwise the most recent financial statements approved by the governing body.
- Provision of all required organisational overview information listed in the assessment criteria, including details of: public access and reach; community outcomes; volunteering and activation; and financial need. (Refer to assessment criteria below for further details).
- Provision of compliance information where relevant to the organisation's activities (safeguarding/child safe organisation policy; and liquor RSA/incident register/harm minimisation)

Ineligible organisations/groups

- Predominantly private/member-only benefit with minimal public access.
- Weak governance/financial transparency or non-compliance.
- Organisations operating primarily for private profit.

Application process

Where a section 6.26 application is declined, the applicant will be:

- Advised of the outcome and reasons for refusal; and
- Provided with the option to submit an application for a concession under section 6.47 via the prescribed Community Group Rates Concession application form available on the City's website.

Applicants may be required to submit additional or updated information to support their Community Group Rates Concession application, including details of community benefit, activities, and financial capacity.

Alternatively, a community group that may not be eligible to apply for a rates exemption but still provides demonstrable community benefit is eligible to apply for a rates concession.

Assessment process

Applications for a Community Group Rates Concession will be assessed by the City's Community Development team, rather than through the statutory rating assessment process.

The assessment will focus on:

- The organisation's contribution to community wellbeing and social outcomes.
- Accessibility and inclusiveness of services or activities.
- Alignment with City strategic priorities.
- The organisation's financial position and need for support.
- Other financial support provided to the applicant by the City.

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Nature of concessions

Concessions granted under section 6.47 are discretionary and may include full or partial relief from rates.

Approval is subject to:

- Council endorsement; and
- Available budget provisions and policy settings.

Unlike exemptions under section 6.26, concessions are not based on land being classified as non-rateable and may be varied, limited, or withdrawn.

Retrospective concessions

Community Group Rates Concessions are not provided retrospectively.

Relationship to exemptions

The Community Group Rates Concession process operates as a separate and secondary pathway to the statutory exemption provisions.

Section 6.26 determines whether land is legally non-rateable.

Section 6.47 enables the City to provide financial assistance where exemption criteria are not met but support is warranted.

Ongoing requirements

Organisations granted a rates concession must:

- Continue to meet the eligibility criteria.
- Notify the City of any material changes to their operations.
- Comply with any reporting, City acknowledgment, or review requirements established as part of the concession by the City's Community Development team.

The City may review a concession at any time should material changes occur to the organisation's operations, governance, financial position or community benefit delivered.

Community Group Rates Concession types

The City offers two Community Group Rates Concession types:

- **Major Concession Partnership**
 - Up to 100% general rates relief.
 - Enhanced reporting requirements and partnership obligations.
 - Partnership agreement endorsed via standalone Council item.

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- Up to 3-year term.

➤ **Basic Capped Concession**

- Concession capped to adopted annual budgeted amount (currently \$12,000). If rates liability is below the cap, the concession may cover it in full without changing its classification or reporting requirements.
- Basic annual KPI reporting.
- All capped concessions endorsed collectively via annual budget process. May also be considered by Council outside the annual budget process if required.
- Up to 3-year term.

All concessions require Council approval by absolute majority as required under section 6.47 of the Local Government Act 1995.

Note: Approved concessions apply to general rates only. ESL/service charges are excluded unless Council resolves otherwise.

Council discretion

Eligibility for consideration of a Major Concession Partnership may be informed by the assessment criteria and overall assessment score; however, the granting of a Major Concession Partnership Agreement remains at Council's discretion.

Council may determine that an organisation demonstrating significant community benefit is suitable for a Major Concession Partnership Agreement regardless of whether a Major Concession Partnership was specifically sought by the applicant.

Similarly, an organisation that achieves a score otherwise indicating eligibility for a Major Concession Partnership consideration is not automatically entitled to receive a Major Concession Partnership Agreement.

The following requirements apply to the two concession types:

Major Concession Partnership - reporting requirements	Basic Capped Concession - reporting requirements
• Membership numbers and demographics • Volunteer numbers and hours • Open-to-public events and attendance • Community group facility use • Inclusion activities • Financial snapshot • Liquor licence compliance • Community impact case study • Acknowledgement obligations	• Members/participants • Activities and programs • Community benefits • Open-access events • Volunteer hours • Acknowledgement obligations

Overview of Community Group Rates Concession types and requirements

Concession type	Applicable to (examples)	Support level	Rationale in plain English	Requirements of recipients of Community Group Rates Concession	Council endorsement	Length of term of concession
Major Concession Partnership (Eligible for consideration if criteria score of 70+)	Not-for-profits/ incorporated associations; community service organisations; and community sporting clubs that deliver a significant community benefit.	Higher rates concession may be available as part of partnership agreement. Council may provide a concession up to 100% of general rates.	They deliver high public positive outcomes, are NFP, and often activate City assets for community benefit.	Detailed annual reporting to the City (membership numbers, yearly change and demographics; volunteers and hours; public events/programs and attendance; community facility use; activity summary; inclusion practices; financial snapshot; liquor compliance where relevant; and a short impact example.) Acknowledge the City as a supporter where appropriate, including in publications, event invitations, major events and logo display.	Endorsed via standalone Council item.	Up to three-year partnership agreement.
Basic Capped Concession (Criteria score of under 70)	Community social clubs, semi-professional sporting clubs* and smaller organisations (*Refer below for criteria for how semi-professional sporting clubs are determined)	Capped rates concession (currently up to \$12,000). If rates liability is below the cap, the concession may cover it in full without changing its classification or reporting requirements.	- Groups that don't meet Major Concession eligibility or are smaller organisations. - Groups that may create solid community value yet have greater revenue sources and more member-centric activity. - Assign Basic Capped Concession when organisation delivers community benefit but operates with semi-professional sporting club characteristics.	Basic annual KPI reporting to the City (members/participants; activities and programs; community benefits provided; open access/community events; estimated volunteer hours) Acknowledge the support of the City of Fremantle where practical.	Capped concessions endorsed collectively via annual budget process. Can be considered outside the annual budget process if required.	Up to three-year term

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Assessment criteria

1. **Public access and reach (30%)** — how open is the facility and its programs to the broader community?
2. **Community outcomes (30%)** — health, youth development, cultural programs, emergency services, social inclusion.
3. **Volunteering and activation (20%)** — volunteer hours, public events, shared facility use.
4. **Financial need (20%)** — rates liability as a proportion of operating revenue.

The total score out of 100 creates eligibility for consideration (i.e. a score of 70–100 = eligible for Major Concession Partnership consideration; a score under 70 = Basic Capped Concession).

Impact screen (examples of what tips groups into each type)

Major Concession Partnership

- Not-for-profits and community sport that may operate on Council owned or Crown land under lease; and
- Deliver predominantly public benefit: regular open programs, strong multi-demographic reach, broad volunteering, and shared facility use with other community groups and public.
- Demonstrate *strong* alignment with City strategies (e.g. community development, inclusion, health and wellbeing, positive ageing, arts/culture, youth).
- Limited commercial activity; any bar/catering is ancillary to mission.
- Willingness to enter into partnership agreement with the City including detailed annual reporting requirements.

Basic Capped Concession

- Groups or community sporting clubs that don't meet Major Concession Partnership eligibility/criteria level and/or smaller organisations.
- Community social clubs: mixed member/public model, frequent cultural/social programs accessible to non-members; venue often hired by community.
- Semi-professional sporting clubs: clubs compete in meaningful elite competition or provide pathways; may provide junior competition or community clinics but has moderate to significant commercial revenue streams (sponsorships, gate/bar, merchandising); and professional operations (employs multiple paid staff across administration, coaching or high performance functions; players provided salary/match fees). To be classified as a semi-professional sporting club under the Community Group Rates Concessions model, clubs would satisfy at least two of the following criteria: salaried players; employs multiple paid staff across administration, coaching or high performance functions; moderate to significant commercial revenue streams (sponsorships, gate/bar, merchandising).
- Demonstrate *some* alignment with City strategies (e.g. community development, inclusion, health and wellbeing, positive ageing, arts/culture, youth).

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Important information

Total City support

The City considers all forms of support provided to an organisation, including grants, sponsorships, fee waivers, in-kind support and rates concessions, when assessing applications. Applicants may be required to disclose current or pending City support as part of the application process.

Existing funding relationship

Recipients must not use an existing funding relationship with the City as a basis for seeking additional financial support outside the approved funding agreement. Any additional requests will be assessed independently in accordance with relevant City policies.

Variations

Significant changes to scope, budget, timelines or key personnel require written approval from the City.

Breach of Agreement

The City may withhold, reduce, cancel, or recover funds, and declare applicants ineligible for future funding if conditions are breached.

Fraud and misuse

Suspected fraud or misuse of funds will be investigated under the City's Fraud & Corruption Control Policy and may be referred to authorities.

Reputational harm

The City may suspend, withdraw, or cancel funding, and/or terminate a funding agreement, if the funded individual, group or organisation becomes involved in any incident, behaviour or matter that may bring them into disrepute or has the potential to cause reputational damage to the City. In such circumstances, the City may also require the repayment of any funds already provided.

Assessment and decision-making

- Applications assessed on merit, value for money, alignment with objectives and procedural fairness.
- Decisions made under delegated authority according to the program Tier.
- The City's decision is final, subject to available budget.

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Reviews / Appeals

Applicants may request feedback on unsuccessful applications or request a review on grounds of procedural error, failure to consider relevant information, or bias. Requests should be made in writing within 10 business days.

Contact information

Email: grantfunding@fremantle.wa.gov.au

Phone: 1300 MY FREO (1300 693 736)

Website: [Grants - City of Fremantle](#)

Appendices

Appendix 1: Local Government Act 1995 (WA) – Relevant sections

6.26. Rateable land

(1) Except as provided in this section all land within a district is rateable land.

(2) The following land is not rateable land —

(a) land which is the property of the Crown and —

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(i) is being used or held for a public purpose; or

(ii) is unoccupied, except —

(I) where any person is, under paragraph (e) of the definition of *owner* in section 1.4, the owner of the land other than by reason of that person being the holder of a prospecting licence held under the *Mining Act 1978* in respect of land the area of which does not exceed 10 ha or a miscellaneous licence held under that Act; or

(II) where and to the extent and manner in which a person mentioned in paragraph (f) of the definition of *owner* in section 1.4 occupies or makes use of the land;

and

(b) land in the district of a local government while it is owned by the local government and is used for the purposes of that local government other than for purposes of a trading undertaking (as that term is defined in and for the purpose of section 3.59) of the local government; and

(c) land in a district while it is owned by a regional local government and is used for the purposes of that regional local government other than for the purposes of a trading undertaking (as that term is defined in and for the purpose of section 3.59) of the regional local government; and

(d) land used or held exclusively by a religious body as a place of public worship or in relation to that worship, a place of residence of a minister of religion, a convent, nunnery or monastery, or occupied exclusively by a religious brotherhood or sisterhood; and

(e) land used exclusively by a religious body as a school for the religious instruction of children; and

(f) land used exclusively as a non-government school within the meaning of the *School Education Act 1999*;

and

(g) land used exclusively for charitable purposes; and

(h) land vested in trustees for agricultural or horticultural show purposes; and

(i) land owned by Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited or leased from the Crown or a statutory authority (within the meaning of that term in the *Financial Management Act 2006*) by that co-operative and used solely for the storage of grain where that co-operative has agreed in writing to make a contribution to the local government;

and

(j) land which is exempt from rates under any other written law; and

(k) land which is declared by the Minister to be exempt from rates.

(3) If Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited and the relevant local government cannot reach an agreement under subsection (2)(i) either that co-operative or the local government may refer the matter to the Minister for determination of the terms of the agreement and the decision of the Minister is final.

(4) The Minister may from time to time, under subsection (2)(k), declare that any land or part of any land is exempt from rates and by subsequent declaration cancel or vary the declaration.

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(5) Notice of any declaration made under subsection (4) is to be published in the *Gazette*.

(6) Land does not cease to be used exclusively for a purpose mentioned in subsection (2) merely because it is used occasionally for another purpose which is of a charitable, benevolent, religious or public nature.

[Section 6.26 amended: No. 36 of 1999 s. 247; No. 77 of 2006 Sch. 1 cl. 102; No. 24 of 2009 s. 506 (correction to reprint: Gazette 7 Sep 2012 p. 4329).]

6.47. Concessions

Subject to the *Rates and Charges (Rebates and Deferments) Act 1992*, a local government may at the time of imposing a rate or service charge or at a later date resolve to waive* a rate or service charge or resolve to grant other concessions in relation to a rate or service charge.

** Absolute majority required.*

Appendix 2: Overview of application process for Rates Exemptions and Community Group Rates Concessions

A community group that may not be eligible to apply for a rates exemption but still provides demonstrable community benefit is eligible to apply for a rates concession. If successful approve for up to three-year term with option to re-apply at end of term.

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