## Shire President's Message to the Community

Each financial year, Council carefully and thoughtfully prepare a new budget to meet the growing needs of our entire community. Our 2024/2025 Annual Budget has been carefully crafted to ensure the continued provision of quality facilities, community buildings, recreational areas, and efficient administrative services.

While Council and Shire staff strive to maximise revenue from various sources, including fees, charges, capital grants, and contributions, the majority of the Council's total operating revenue comes from rates.

This year, Council has resolved to implement a 5% rate increase for the 2024/2025 Budget, which is 0.9% lower than last year's increase. The increase represents CPI of 3.5% and 1.5% increase to deliver a balanced budget. These rates will enable the Shire to continue to deliver essential services and projects, including:

- Maintenance of infrastructure such as roads, footpaths, street lighting, bushland, our river, and foreshores.
- Waste collection and operation of the Transfer Station.
- Support for local businesses and organisations.
- Community and recreation services, including our library, youth facilities, parks, and reserves.
- Community events and activity programs.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to our Councillors, Shire CEO, and staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the year and on behalf of the Council and staff, express sincere gratitude to all Shire of Irwin ratepayers for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely

**Mark Leonard**
**Shire President**



## Current Elected Members

**Shire President**
Cr Mark Leonard
crleonard@irwin.wa.gov.au

**Shire Vice President**
Cr Barry Wyse
crwyse@irwin.wa.gov.au

### Councillors

Cr Isabelle Scott
crscott@irwin.wa.gov.au
Cr Elyce Tunbridge
crtunbridge@irwin.wa.gov.au
Cr Andrew Gillam
crgillam@irwin.wa.gov.au

Cr Peter Summers
crsummers@irwin.wa.gov.au
Cr Jeffrey Melsom
crmelsom@irwin.wa.gov.au

### Pension Concession & State Government Rebate

Do you hold one of the following concession cards?

- Pension and a current Pensioner Concession Card; or
- State Seniors Card and a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card; or
- State Seniors Card only

You may be eligible to receive a concession on your rates between 25-50%, capped at $750 as a pensioner, OR 25%, capped at $100 as a Seniors Card Holder.

Please contact the Shire of Irwin on 9927 0000 to discuss eligibility or head to register your pension online via Water Corporation online.



# Shire of Irwin
## Rating Information 2024 -2025

**How are rates calculated?**
Council rates are a contribution each property owner makes toward the cost of providing facilities and services in the Shire of Irwin. They are calculated as follows:

**Property Valuation:** Each property is valued by Landgate's Valuer General.
Non-rural properties: Valued based on Gross Rental Value (GRV).
Rural properties: Valued based on land value alone (Unimproved Value or UV).

**Rate Calculation:**
The council sets a rate in the dollar for each rate category.
Your property's valuation is multiplied by this rate in the dollar to determine your rates.

PMB 21, 11-13 Waldeck Street Dongara WA 6525
T:9927 0000
E:reception@irwin.wa.gov.au
www.irwin.wa.gov.au

**Gross Rental Value (GRV)**
Landgate calculates the Gross Rental Values (GRVs) on how much rent you could earn each year if your property was rented out. GRVs are used for urban properties, and these are re-assessed once every four to five years, however, due to COVID, the last valuation was 1 July 2019. The current values are based on the revaluation effective 1 July 2024.

**Unimproved Values (UV)**
Unimproved Values (UVs) are calculated by Landgate based on what your land is expected to sell for in its current condition. UVs are used as the basis for the levying of rates for rural properties. Annual revaluations apply for all rural land within the Shire.

**Mining UV**
Land in which a mining tenement has been issued by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety is rated higher than the UV rural rate to ensure fairness and equity due to the relatively lower valuation determined by Landgate. Also, to recognize the often-short-term nature of mining projects in the region.

**Emergency Services Levy (ESL)**
All local governments are required to collect the ESL on behalf of the Department of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES). For further information visit www.dfes.wa.gov.au.

**Minimum Rates**
Council believes that in view of the level of service and facilities available to all ratepayers, the minimum rate is representative of the minimum contribution that should be made by owners of all rateable land regardless of the value of the property. A minimum rate of $1,050 applies for all rating categories in 2024/2025.

**Swimming Pools and Safety Barriers**
In December 2023, the *Building Amendment Regulations 2023* made various reforms to the swimming pool and safety barrier requirements in the *Building Regulations 2012*. One of those was the requirement for local governments to now reinspect non-compliant safety barriers and continue to reinspect the barrier until it is compliant. The cost of reinspecting now has to be factored into the fee.

**Rate Categories**
Rates in the dollar for the 2024-2025 financial year for each rating category are shown below:

| Rating Categories 2024/25 | Rate in the Dollar (Cents) | Minimum Payment |
|---|---|---|
| GRV General Rate | 9.825 | $1,050 |
| UV Rural General Rate | 1.0891 | $1,050 |
| UV Mining Differential Rate | 21.147 | $1,050 |

**How to pay your Rates**
- In person at the Shire of Irwin Office
- Over the phone
- By mail
- Online with BPAY
- Online with Mastercard or visa www.irwin.wa.gov.au

If you are having trouble paying your rates by the due date, please contact the Shire of Irwin's Rates Officer to discuss alternative payment arrangements. We can help you establish a weekly, fortnightly or monthly payment plan. Note that rates must be paid within the financial year and interest will be charged on overdue amounts.

**Instalments**
All arrears and interest still outstanding on your account needs to be paid in full along with the first instalment for 2024-25 for you to be eligible to enter into the instalment options. The cost of the instalment plans will comprise of 5.5% interest per annum, calculated from the date the first instalment is due, together with an administration fee of $5 for each instalment notice. Please note these charges are only incurred after the first instalment.

**Overdue Rates**
Don't be late! Rates that are not paid by the due date will incur the following interest charges, calculated daily:
**General rates:** 7% per annum
**ESL:** 11% per annum

**Rates Payment Options**
The Shire provides three options for payment of your rates:

**OPTION 1 –** Pay in Full (By 30 September 2024)
**OPTION 2 –** Pay in Two Instalments
**OPTION 3 –** Pay in four Instalments

| | |
|---|---|
| **1st Instalment Due**<br>30 September 2024 | **2nd Instalment Due**<br>29 November 2024 |
| **3rd Instalment Due**<br>31 January 2025 | **4th Instalment Due**<br>4 April 2025 |

**Rubbish Collection Fee**
This fee is applicable to all developed properties situated along the serviceable route managed by the Shire's contractor, Avon Waste.

For more information on rubbish collection dates and times for your area, please refer to the Shire of Irwin website.

If you have any questions or issues with your collection services, or for bin repairs or replacements please contact Avon Waste direct on (08) 9641 1318.

**Objections to Valuations**
Property Valuations are set by Landgate and are used to determine the rates payable on each property. If you have a query with your property value, or wish to lodge an objection, you can contact Landgate on (08) 9273 7373.
More information can be found on their website. www.landgate.wa.gov.au/valuations

Objections must be lodged within 60 days after the issue of the rates notice. Rates must still be paid in full by the due date pending the outcome of the objection. A refund will be issued if the objection is upheld.

SHIRE OF IRWIN
DONGARA-PORT DENISON
A BRILLIANT BLEND

# FIRE INFORMATION 2024 - 2025

**First and final notice - Deadline 29th October 2024**

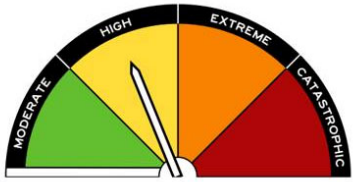
## IMPORTANT DATES

**FIREBREAKS**
Required between 29 October and 15 April (inclusive)

**BURNING PERIODS: (Inclusive)**

**RESTRICTED** - 1 October to 31 October
**PROHIBITED** - 1 November to 28 February
**RESTRICTED** - 1 March to 7 April
**UNRESTRICTED** - 8 April to 14 October

The Australian Fire Danger Ratings (AFDRS) levels are:




| | |
|---|---|
| MODERATE<br>Plan and prepare | HIGH<br>Be ready to act |
| EXTREME<br>Take action now to protect life and property | CATASTROPHIC<br>For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas |

Keep up to date and check Fire Danger Ratings and Total Fire Bans on **www.emergency.wa.gov.au**

Make a Bushfire Plan Today
**https://mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au/**

## BURN PERMITS

**When to obtain permits**
Permits are required for burning of windrows, stubble, grass or bush at any time during the **RESTRICTED** burning periods. Permits are required for all areas. No burning is permitted on a High or above Fire Danger Rating day during the Restricted burning period.

**How to obtain permits**
Permits can be obtained from the Shire Office or from your local Permit Issuing Officer listed below. When applying for a permit you will need to provide the lot number and street name of the property for which the permit is to apply.

**TOWNSITE AREAS**

| | |
|---|---|
| SHIRE OFFICE | 9927 0000 |
| Community Ranger | (M) 0427 110 237 |
| M Butcher | (M) 0408 956 741 |
| H Campbell | (M) 0427 931 058 |
| S Boyd | (M) 0427 366 557 |

**RURAL AREAS**

| | |
|---|---|
| A Gillam | (M) 0427 717 174 |
| P Summers | (M) 0429 086 270 |

**CAMPFIRES - PROHIBITED** 1 October to 30 April

## GARDEN REFUSE BURNING

**PROHIBITED BURNING SEASON**
No garden refuse is permitted to be burnt during the prohibited burning season.

**RESTRICTED BURNING SEASON**
Small heaps (up to one cubic metre) of garden refuse may be burnt on the ground between 6:00 pm and 11:00 pm BUT ONLY AFTER a 5 metre wide, fire-break has been cleared around the fire and at least one able bodied person is in attendance at all times. A permit is not required under these conditions.

## BARBEQUES

Gas and electric barbeques are permitted at any time. Solid fuel barbecues and pizza ovens are **PROHIBITED** on DFES declared Total Fire Ban Days or days of High, Extreme or Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating.

## HARVESTING OPERATIONS

No person shall operate harvesting machinery during the **RESTRICTED** **or** **PROHIBITED** burning period on any land unless they have a mobile and operational fire fighting unit with a capacity of at least 400 litres, situated in or immediately adjacent to each paddock where harvesting operations are being conducted. Harvesting operations are **PROHIBITED** on Christmas day, Boxing Day and New Years Day. It is mandatory for all operators of harvesters to be registered on the Shire of Irwin Harvest & Off-Road Activity Ban SMS service.

## REGISTERING YOUR BURN

Please don't forget to register all burns during the Restricted and Un-Restricted Burning Periods with the DFES Communications Centre on **08 9395 9209.**

**Failure to comply with this Firebreak Notice may result in a penalty of up to $5,000.**
A person is also liable to pay the direct costs of performing the work specified in this Notice.
Penalties also apply for offences related to burning.

## TELEPHONE NUMBERS

**EMERGENCY: 000** (in case of fire)
**Shire of Irwin: Community Ranger 0427 110 237**
**Administration 9927 0000**
In the event of not being able to contact anyone on these numbers, please refer to the Permit Issuing Officers listed above.

# FIREBREAK & FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION NOTICE 2024 - 2025

**First and final notice - Deadline 29th October 2024**

## TO ALL LAND OWNERS AND/OR OCCUPIERS OF LAND IN THE SHIRE OF IRWIN

Firebreaks must be installed and maintained clear of flammable materials from
**29 OCTOBER 2024** up to and including **15 APRIL 2025**

### RURAL LAND

Land other than that within the Dongara Port Denison and Irwin Town Sites:

**1.1** Maintain an Asset Protection Zone (APZ).

**1.2** Have firebreaks not less than 3 metres in width and within 50 metres of the perimeter of any building/haystack or groups of buildings/haystacks situated on the land. Such firebreaks must completely encircle the building and/or hay stack.

**1.3** Have firebreaks not less than 5 metres in width around all unattended motors and uncleared land that is in contact with a boundary.

**1.4** All landowners in the **Urban/Rural Interface Area** (All land south from Mt Horner West Road, west of Water Supply Road and Pettit Lane and thereafter south and west of Brand Highway to Kailis Drive) have the option of either installing and maintaining a 3 metre wide firebreak, or a 20 metre wide slashed or heavily grazed firebreak to a maximum height of 100mm immediately inside and along all boundaries of land.

**1.5** Ensure minimum vertical clearance of 4 metres is maintained along all firebreaks to reduce fire truck obstruction.

### TOWN SITE LAND

Land situated within the Town Sites of Dongara Port Denison and Irwin:

**2.1** Maintain an Asset Protection Zone (APZ).

**2.2** Have vacant land cleared of all flammable material (Slashed to a maximum height of 100mm) where the area of the land is 5000 square metres or less.

**2.3** Have firebreaks not less 3 metres in width immediately inside and along all boundaries of land exceeding 5000 square metres in area.

**2.4** Have firebreaks not less than 5 metres in width around all uncleared land that is in contact with a boundary.

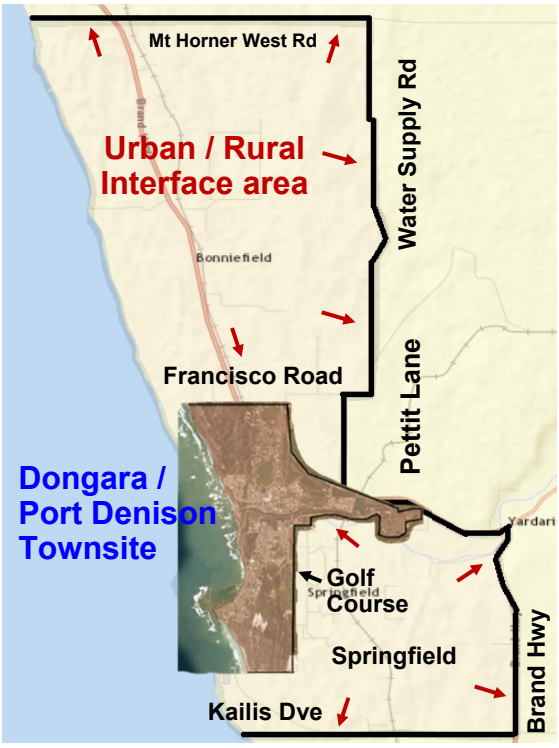
**2.5** Ensure minimum vertical clearance of 4 metres is maintained along all firebreaks to reduce fire truck obstruction.

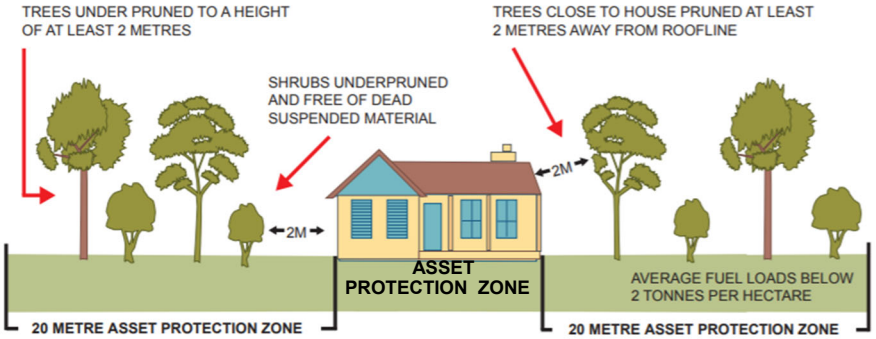
### ASSET PROTECTION ZONES (APZ)

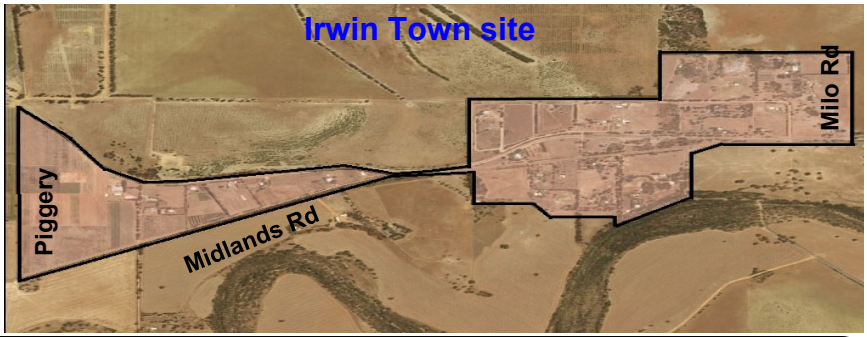
An Asset Protection Zone for habitable buildings extends a minimum of 20 metres out from any external walls of the building, attached structures, or adjacent structures within 6 metres of the habitable building (See below example):

- Should consist of managed vegetation, reticulated lawns and gardens and other non-flammable features.
- Grass recommended to be maintained to or under 50mm in height.

**Note:** All properties that are subject to a pre-approved Bushfire Management Plan with the establishment of an APZ must maintain this APZ to the required standard at all times.




**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT https://www.irwin.wa.gov.au/fire-break-notice**

**VARIATIONS TO FIREBREAK NOTICE**

If it is impracticable to clear firebreaks or to remove flammable material from the land, you may apply in writing to the Shire by 25 September for an alternative solution.

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

DFES Department of Fire & Emergency Services

FOR A **SAFER STATE**



# Emergency Services Levy for a Safer State

The Emergency Services Levy (ESL) helps deliver essential fire and emergency services across Western Australia.

No matter where you live in our vast State, you will see the ESL hard at work.

The ESL helps protect 2.9 million Western Australians by funding the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and its volunteers to respond to bushfires, storms, cyclones, floods, road crashes, hazardous spills and search-and-rescue missions.

It supports around 26,000 fire and rescue, marine and emergency services volunteers and more than 1,800 career firefighters, operational and corporate staff from DFES to provide around-the-clock fire and emergency services.

Your ESL contribution also helps fund fire and emergency vehicles, aerial fleets, life-saving equipment and emergency services facilities.

To learn more about how your ESL is calculated, including information on the different rates, limits and concessions visit dfes.wa.gov.au/esl.

**Throughout 2023-24, the ESL provided essential funding for firefighters and emergency services volunteers to respond to more than 32,000 emergency incidents including:**

## Fire Response

Over 10,300 fires including: 5,800+ bushfires and more than 1,300 structure fires

## Severe weather

About 1,500 requests from the community for assistance after storms, cyclones and floods

## Marine rescue

More than 1,500 search-and-rescue missions at sea

## Road crash rescue

More than 2,900 road crash rescues




# In 2024–25 the Emergency Services Levy will also fund:

### Triple Zero (000)

Responding to an estimated 40,000 calls for emergency assistance from the community

### Emergency Vehicles

Powering the frontline with more than 2,400 emergency response vehicles

### Training

Developing firefighters and volunteers to be at the forefront of emergency response

### Bushfire Mitigation

Supporting 95 local governments through funding bushfire mitigation to reduce risk to protect people, property and the environment

### Supporting Emergency Services

Providing grants to fund volunteer Bush Fire brigades, State Emergency Service units and Marine Rescue groups

### Fire and Emergency Facilities

More than 600 Fire and Emergency Facilities operating around the clock to protect communities in an emergency

### Aerial Fleet

Dropping 17 million litres of fire suppressant and flying around 2,300 hours to fight fires, gather intelligence and transport emergency personnel and equipment

### Emergency WA

Publishing around 9,000 alerts and warnings to keep communities informed before, during and after emergencies

### Safety and Education

Preparing Western Australians to reduce their risks and increase resilience in the face of natural disasters and emergencies

For more information or to request brochures in large print, Braille or another language, call **1300 136 099** or visit **dfes.wa.gov.au/esl**