

Shire News

Shire of Dardanup Newsletter

Investing in today, planning for tomorrow

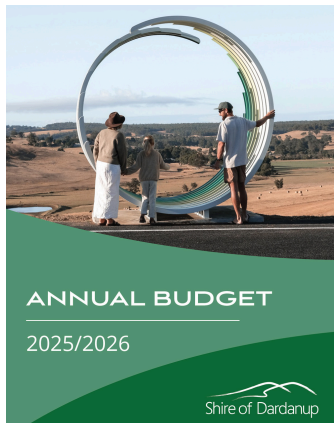
The Shire of Dardanup has adopted its 2025/26 Annual Budget, with a strong focus on maintaining essential services, renewing ageing infrastructure, and preparing for future growth.

The budget includes a 6.1% increase in general rate revenue, a decision made carefully in light of rising service delivery costs and inflation.

Shire President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner acknowledged the financial pressures many households are facing.

He emphasised that the Valuer General's revaluation reflects strong growth and increasing demand for property in the Shire.

"The 49% average increase in residential property rental values is a sign of the desirability and continued development of our region," Cr Gardiner said.



The Shire of Dardanup has adopted its 2025/26 Annual Budget on 25 June 2025.

"In response, Council has reduced the rate in the dollar to ensure this growth doesn't translate to an unrealistic rates burden. We're committed to managing this transition responsibly and supporting our community with fair, sustainable financial decisions."

The Shire's \$42 million operating budget includes a modest surplus and prioritises long-term sustainability.

Key investments include:

- \$5.32 million for roads, bridges, and drainage
- \$1.92 million for building upgrades, including the new Burekup Pavilion
- \$392,523 for parks and reserves.
- \$431,644 for community grants, events, programs.

The budget reflects feedback from nearly 900 residents who participated in the 2025 MARKYT Community Scorecard, where the Shire ranked 2nd among regional councils and 8th overall.

"The Shire's key focus is to protect and maintain the assets our community relies on today, while also building reserves to deliver the infrastructure and renewal projects our growing community."

To view the budget, scan the below QR code:



Community Scorecard results are in

The Shire has been recognised as one of WA's top-performing local governments, ranking 2nd among regional councils and 8th overall out of 70+ councils in the 2025 MARKYT Community Scorecard.

Nearly 900 residents took part, sharing feedback across a wide range of services. The Shire was identified as an industry leader in:

- Community engagement and communication.
- Economic development.
- Access and inclusion.
- Youth and seniors' services.
- Ranger services.
- Local town centre development.

Shire President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner said the results reflect strong community trust.

Additional highlights include high ratings in financial management, planning, customer service, sport and rec, parks, libraries, and roads.

The community also identified key priorities: housing availability, road upgrades, waste management, and community safety.

Full results are on our website

Updates:

Community grants open

Round 1 of the Shire's 2025/26

Community and Event Grants open on 1 July 2025.

Not-for-profit groups and clubs can apply for funding to support local projects that build community, activate spaces, and promote inclusivity.

Applications close Tuesday, 29 July 2025.

Visit our Grants page or call Kylie Tucker on (08) 9724 0000.

Library holiday fun

The Eaton Community Library is the perfect winter holiday escape!

Enjoy a free, fun-filled program including:

Treasure hunt, Mario Kart, eco activities, craft, NAIDOC story time and more

It's all about learning, fun and community.

See the full program and book your spot today at library.dardanup.wa.gov.au

BunGeo sports awards

The Shire is a proud supporter of the 2025 Bunbury Geographe Sports Awards.

This year's awards dinner is on Friday, 11 July from 6pm at BREC, hosted by the City of Bunbury.

Come together to honour the athletes, coaches, and volunteers who make our community proud.

Tickets via Eventbrite: Book now.

Dardanup office repairs

Repair works have begun at the Dardanup Office following damage caused by a vehicle in October.

The works, expected to take 2-3 weeks, will restore the brickwork beneath the front window. The office and library remain open, with normal access via the main entrance. Thank you to our community for your patience – we're pleased to see repairs underway.

Wildlife-friendly rodent control to protect birds

The Shire of Dardanup has officially ditched the use of harmful second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) in favour of wildlife-friendly first-generation alternatives across its facilities — a move designed to better protect native species and pets.

Following feedback from concerned residents and in support of ongoing campaigns by BirdLife Australia, the Shire has transitioned to using first-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (FGARs) at key locations.

Shire CEO André Schönfeldt said the change reflects the Shire's strong commitment to environmental stewardship and responsible pest control practices.

"We've listened to our community and acted to ensure our pest control measures align with our values," Mr Schönfeldt said.

"By switching to first-generation products, which biodegrade much faster and pose far less risk to native predators, we're helping keep our wildlife safe while still managing pests effectively."

Mr Schönfeldt said SGARs accumulate in the bodies of animals that consume poisoned rodents, often resulting in secondary poisoning and death.

He said BirdLife Australia has long advocated against the use of SGARs, encouraging all levels of government to adopt safer baiting methods and help protect native bird populations.

"The Shire proudly stands alongside these efforts and supports the work of BirdLife Bunbury in its local conservation endeavours," Mr Schönfeldt said.

"We're proud to be leading by example."

Birdlife Bunbury Convenor Diane Cavanagh congratulated the Shire for its proactive approach.

"It is wonderful to see the Shire of Dardanup implementing rodenticide control methods which protect local birdlife from lethal second generation rodenticides," she said.

"Every initiative which helps stem the decline in local native birdlife helps sustain the precious biodiversity which surrounds us in WA's Southwest."



The Shire of Dardanup's Coordinator of Environment and Waste Eliza-Jane Jacques (left) and Library Officer Kate Maloney. The Shire has switched to wildlife-friendly rodent control.

Meeting dates for 2025

The Shire's 2025 Ordinary Council Meetings are held on the following Wednesdays at 5pm:

23 July	19 October
27 August	19 November
25 Sept	17 December

The Bush Fire Advisory Committee and the Audit and Risk Committee meetings will be held on the following Wednesdays:

Bush Fire Advisory Committee,
Wednesdays, 7pm:
8 October

Audit and Risk Committee,
Wednesdays, 2pm:
10 December and 10 Sept.

New planning scheme approved for Shire

The Shire has entered a new planning era with the approval of Local Planning Scheme No. 9 (LPS9) by the WA Planning Commission.

Gazetted on 23 June 2025, LPS9 replaces the long-standing Town Planning Scheme No. 3 from 1979.

Shire President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner called the update a "game-changer".

He said the scheme also brings greater clarity for landowners, developers, and the community.

To view the LPS9 scan the below QR code:



Shire President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner and Senior Strategic Planning Officer Suzanne Occhipinti.

Eaton Drive works until mid August

Thank you for your patience as upgrade works continue along Eaton Drive.

Projects include the installation of new traffic signals and intersection improvements to boost safety and traffic flow.

Works will continue through to August, with traffic management in place.

We appreciate your understanding during this time. For more info, contact us on (08) 9724 0000.

What's on your verge?

Please check before you plant, pave or place

Shire of Dardanup

Receive your rates via email

You'll need your Assessment Number (from your Rates Notice)



CENTRE MEMBERSHIPS

24/7

24 HOUR GYM ACCESS - VIRTUAL CYCLE STUDIO - OVER 30 DIFFERENT GROUP CLASSES - 24 HOURS

JOIN NOW & SAVE!