

Shire News

Shire of Dardanup Newsletter

Where will your rates go for 2025/26?

You may have received your 2025-26 rates notice by now - our Budget and Rates brochure is a snapshot of how your rates help shape the Shire of Dardanup through essential services, upgrades, and community investment.

Your rates help fund essential services, upgrades, and good governance across the Shire of Dardanup.

Where your rates go:

- \$24 million spent on facilities – upgrades, renewals, repairs, maintenance and expansions. This includes project management, contracts, and depreciation. That means 57% of our \$42 million budget goes directly to workers and contractors delivering services and building our community.

- \$9.5 million (23%) invested in services like law and order, health, waste, recreation, and development.

- \$8.5 million (20%) supports governance, financial management, IT, auditing, systems, and customer service, backed by two years of Auditor General recognition for best practice.

Rates update:

- Rates have increased by 6.1% this year to keep delivering essential services and renewing ageing infrastructure.
- A 49% average increase in residential rental values reflects strong growth and demand in our region. Council has reduced the rate in the dollar to avoid placing an unrealistic burden on ratepayers.



Flexible payment options:

- We're here to help. Our Rates team can set up custom payment plans to suit your needs.
- Pay in full by 10 September to enter the \$2,000 early bird draw, or spread your payments out.

To view the brochure, scan here:



Shire named finalist in WasteSorted Awards

The Shire is a finalist in the 2025 WasteSorted Awards, recognising outstanding achievements in e-waste recovery and recycling across Western Australia with winners announced on Thursday, 11 September.

Shire President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner said the Shire's nomination in two categories (Local Government and Regional) for its proactive and community-focused approach to e-waste resource recovery, including the development of a dedicated e-waste sorting shed, household battery collection points, and a commitment to maintaining e-waste services in bulk vergeside collections.

Cr Gardiner said the WasteSorted Awards celebrate individuals, community groups, businesses, schools, and local governments working towards a low-waste future.



Shire President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner and Coordinator of Environment and Waste Eliza-Jane Jacques. The Shire is a finalist in the WasteSorted Awards.

"The Shire of Dardanup is honoured to be among the finalists and looks forward to continuing its leadership in sustainable waste management," Cr Gardiner said.

"Being named a finalist is a testament to the hard work of our staff and the support of our community.

"We've taken the e-waste to landfill ban as an opportunity to build a better, more inclusive recycling service that benefits everyone in the Shire.

"We're proud to have recovered over 35 tonnes of e-waste to date, and we remain committed to growing our impact and supporting local industry in the process."

Cr Gardiner said the Shire's Waste Transfer Station (WTS) has become a hub for responsible e-waste disposal, with staff removing electrical cords and motors for local recycling and ensuring safe storage and transport of materials to accredited processors.

He said the initiative also includes the successful amendment of the WTS licence to allow for household battery collection, further enhancing the Shire's comprehensive approach.

Updates:

Real-life skills after school

An exciting Next Gen Skills Program in the September school holidays is designed to equip young people aged 14-25 with practical, real-world skills that support life after school.

The program features a series of hands-on sessions covering everything from health and finance to trades, tech, and culture. Participants can attend one workshop or join the full week of activities. Check out the Shire's website.

Step into spring with a friend at the ERC

From 1-30 September current members can invite a friend to join the Eaton Recreation Centre gym. When your friend signs up and stays for at least one month, you both receive four weeks of free membership. A simple way to stay motivated, save money, and share your fitness journey. Sign up via the ERC website at erc.dardanup.wa.gov.au

Discover your family history

Join our engaging workshops to explore genealogy tools, share ideas, and uncover your family secrets. Learn how to access free online training in Roots Tech Revisited on 21 September, and dive into the 1921 UK Census with a hands-on session on 18 September, 5.30-7pm at Eaton Community Library. Bring your laptop or use ours!

Shire building in running for national award

The Shire's Library, Administration and Community Building in Eaton has been named a national finalist in the IPWEA Awards for Best Public Works Project over \$5 million. Winners will be announced at the International Public Works Conference in Sydney on 28 August.



Meeting dates for 2025

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

- 27 August
- 25 September
- 19 October
- 19 November
- 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 September.

Members of the public are invited to attend monthly meetings, which are also recorded and published on the Shire website.

André Schönfeldt, CEO

Local Government Elections 2025

Ever thought about making a difference in your local area? Now's your chance! The 2025 Local Government Election is just around the corner, and the Shire of Dardanup is calling on passionate locals to step up and nominate.



FREE EVENT | ALL AGES

- Amusements
- Games
- Activities
- Markets
- Entertainment
- Food
- Music
- and more!

SUNDAY
19
OCTOBER
2025

9:30AM - 12:30PM
EATON FORESHORE

For more information scan the QR code or visit our website, www.dardanup.wa.gov.au



Understanding verges and crossovers

What you can and can't do

Many residents are unaware of what's allowed on their verge, and it's important you know. In some cases, property owners have had to remove or redo landscaping that didn't meet Shire requirements.

To help you avoid this, we've broken down the key rules and responsibilities around verge treatments and crossovers.

What is a verge?

The verge is the strip of land between your property boundary and the road. It may include a footpath or crossover (driveway access). While the land is Crown-owned, you are responsible for maintaining it.

What you can do with your verge

You must apply for approval before installing anything other than grass, plant-based woodchips or plant-based mulch. Approved treatments must be safe, waterwise, and easy to maintain.

Permitted verge treatments (no Shire approval required):

- Turf (grass).
- Shredded organic (plant-based) mulch (e.g. woodchips).

Permitted verge treatments (written approval from Shire):

- Waterwise native plants and gardens.
- Hardstand materials (up to 50% of the verge area, excluding the crossover):
 - Concrete.
 - Asphalt.
 - Brick paving.
 - Synthetic turf (green only).
 - In rural areas only: crushed rock, limestone, or compacted road base.

Design guidelines:

- Maintain a 2m zone behind the kerb if no footpath exists.
- Avoid planting tall vegetation near intersections.
- Ensure stormwater runoff doesn't affect other properties.
- Keep access to water meters, NBN Comms pits, light/power poles and mailboxes clear.

What you can't do with your verge

Prohibited verge treatments:

- Loose decorative stones or rocks (trip hazard).
- Permanent structures like walls, fencing, or raised kerbing.
- Gravel, crushed rock, or cracker dust in urban areas.
- Materials that may wash into the road or drainage system.



Shire President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner and Assets Officer – Compliance Adrienne Teede check out a compliant verge in Millbridge.

If non-compliant materials are installed, you may be required to remove them at your own cost.

What is a crossover?

A crossover is the section of driveway that crosses the verge to connect your property to the road. All crossovers must:

- Be approved by the Shire before construction.
- Link to a driveway on your property (standalone crossovers are not allowed).
- Use permitted materials (e.g. concrete, asphalt, brick paving).
- Include flush concrete edge beams to prevent breakage.

Residential crossover dimensions:

- Width: 3m to 6m.
- Kerb splays: Minimum 1.5m x 1.5m.

Parking on the verge:

You may park your registered vehicle on your verge. However:

- Boats, trailers, and caravans not attached to a vehicle are not allowed.
- Non-compliance may result in fines or impoundment.

Need help?

Before making changes, submit [Form 147 – Verge Treatment Application](#) from our website or contact our Engineering Compliance Team on (08) 9724 0000 or records@dardanup.wa.gov.au



Authors Talk in Eaton - Holden Sheppard

Acclaimed Western Australian author Holden Sheppard is making his only South West stop at Eaton Community Library on Thursday, 28 August, as part of his King of Dirt National Book Tour.

Award-winning Sheppard will deliver an exclusive Author Talk and Q&A session, offering insights into his latest novel King of Dirt – a gritty and heartfelt exploration of identity, masculinity, and life in regional WA.



The story follows Jack (Giacomo Brolo) as he returns to his Geraldton hometown, confronting painful memories and seeking self-understanding.

Hosted by Dr Aksel Dadswell, the FREE event includes book sales (Collins Booksellers Bunbury) and a signing session.

Event details: Thursday, 28 August 2025, 6-7.30pm.

Eaton Community Library, 1 Council Drive. For ages 18+ (15-17 with parent/guardian).

Scan below QR code to register.

