



## **OBJECTS AND REASONS FOR PROPOSED DIFFERENTIAL RATES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2024**

In accordance with Section 6.36 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the City of Karratha is required to publish its Objects and Reasons for implementing Differential Rates.

### **OVERALL OBJECTIVE**

The purpose of the levying of rates is to meet Council's budget requirements in each financial year in order to deliver services and community infrastructure.

Property valuations provided by the Valuer General are used as the basis for the calculation of rates each year. Section 6.33 of the *Local Government Act 1995* provides the ability to differentially rate properties based on zoning and/or land use as determined by the City of Karratha. The application of differential rating maintains equity in the rating of properties across the City.

Council has considered the Key Values contained within the Rating Policy: Differential Rates released by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, being:

- Objectivity;
- Fairness and equity;
- Consistency; and
- Transparency and administrative efficiency.

*A copy of the policy can be obtained from:*

[www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/departments/publications/publication/rating-policy-differential-rates](http://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/departments/publications/publication/rating-policy-differential-rates).

Council has determined its required rates yield after reviewing all revenue sources, expenditure, and efficiency measures as part of 2023/24 budget deliberations.

The Rate in the Dollar applied to all rating categories reflects a 5.0% increase to facilitate Council's objective of raising a total of \$51.1 million in rates. This will ensure an equitable distribution of the required rates yield from one year to the next consistent with Council's approach in previous years.

The rate yield of \$51.1 million is below the revenue requirements of Council's Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) of \$57.1 million for the 2023/24 financial year, provides for Capital Works and Programs.

Council has reviewed its expenditure and considered efficiency measures as part of its budget deliberations. In particular, the following actions have been undertaken:

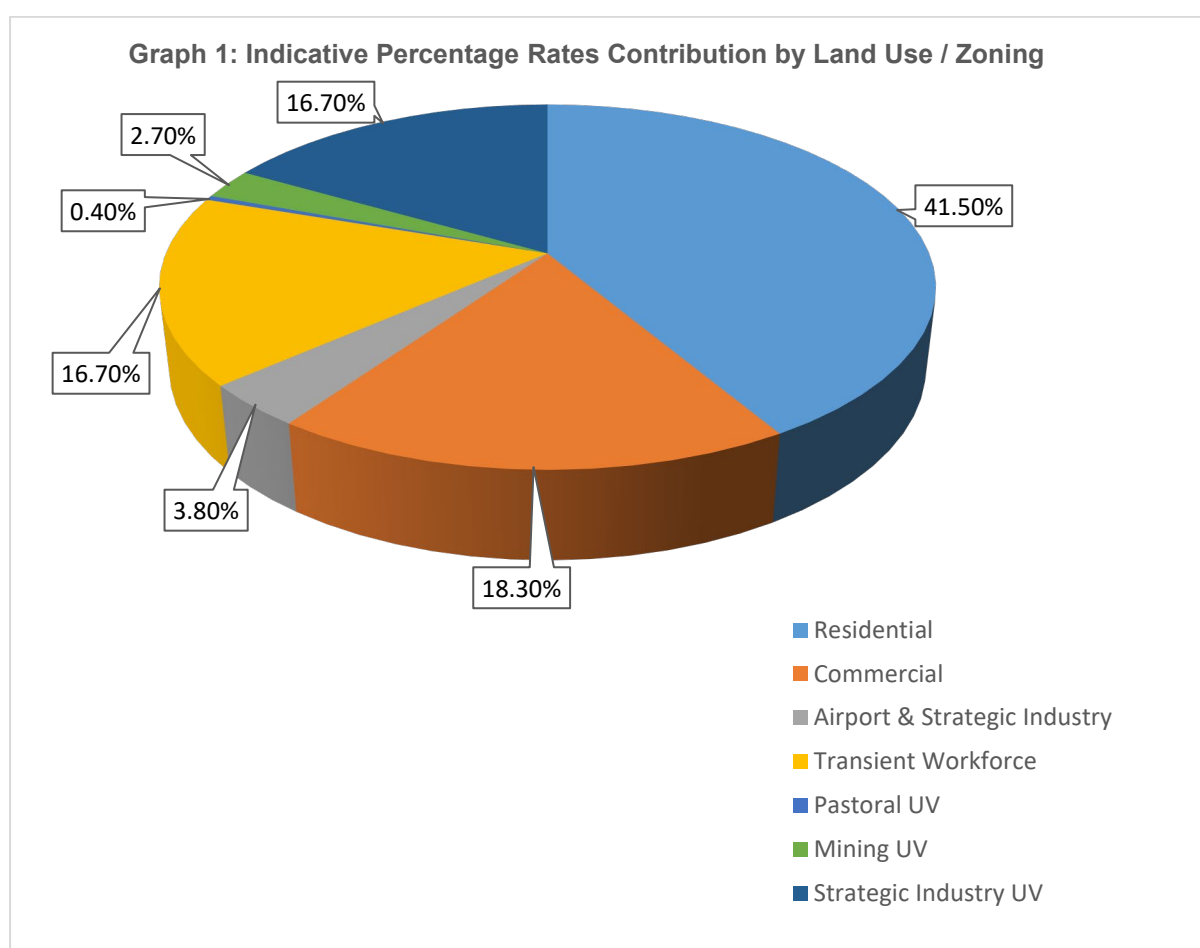
#### Efficiency Measures:

- continued review of the need for and remuneration of each vacant position;
- disposal of under-utilised light fleet and plant;
- continued use of local suppliers whenever possible and appropriate;
- implementing energy and water efficiency strategies and actions including installation of PV array at Karratha Leisureplex;
- implementation of GRV rating for capital improvements under the State's Rating Policy – Valuation of Land – Mining;
- conduct one full budget review, and one review of material amendments required;
- implementation of new Enterprise Resource Planning system; and
- ongoing investment in property to generate alternative revenue streams and reduce reliance on rates.

#### Service Improvements:

- expansion of local road and footpath network and associated infrastructure, including reconstruction of Coolawanyah Road stage 3, and Hillview/Balmoral Road upgrades;
- park enhancement including playground replacement and reticulation upgrades;
- Airport terminal and carpark upgrades;
- Oval upgrades including Kevin Richards Memorial Oval redevelopment and Bulgarra Oval lighting
- housing and land initiatives including provision of Service Worker accommodation;
- Dampier land transfers from Rio Tinto;
- Roebourne Streetscape Masterplan for town centre;
- additional two Bus Shelters;
- visibility of Rangers in the community;
- grant funding opportunities for community organisations;
- conduct of annual community survey to inform services and priorities;
- increase in indigenous engagement;
- attraction and retention of skilled workers under Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA).

Graph 1 represents the total 2023/24 rates to be levied by land use / zoning.



#### **GROSS RENTAL VALUE PROPERTIES (GRV)**

The *Local Government Act 1995* determines that properties of a non-rural purpose be rated using the Gross Rental Valuation (GRV) as the basis for the calculation of annual rates.

The Valuer General supplies and updates the GRV for all properties within the City of Karratha every three years. Landgate conducted a full valuation in late 2021, with updated valuations applicable from 1 July 2022.

Interim valuations are provided monthly to the City of Karratha by the Valuer General for properties where changes have occurred (i.e. subdivisions or strata title of property, amalgamations, building

constructions, demolition, additions and/or property rezoning). In such instances Council recalculates the rates for the affected properties and issues interim rates notices.

Table 1 below summarises the proposed 2023/24 minimum payments and rates in the dollar for GRV:

**Table 1: Proposed differential rates for 2023/24 financial year (GRV)**  
**Including average rate per assessment**

Differential Rates 2023/24				
Category	Proposed Minimum Payment	Proposed Rate in the Dollar	Proposed Average Rate per Property	Change in Average Rate
<b>Gross Rental Value</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>%</b>
Residential	1,691	0.074611	2,472	5.0
Commercial / Industrial	1,691	0.102115	8,052	5.0
Airport / Strategic Industry (GRV)	1,691	0.149221	56,819	5.0
Transient Workforce Accommodation / Workforce Accommodation	1,691	0.295458	327,830	5.0

**Residential** – means any land:

- that is predominantly used for residential purposes;
- or**
- which is vacant of any construction and is zoned as residential under the City's Planning Scheme.

This differential rate is applicable to properties that have a predominant land use of residential or used by organisations involved in activities for community benefit including Arts and Craft facilities, Youth Centres, Day Care Centres, Sporting Grounds/Clubs (that do not run a commercial business/kitchen) and health & emergency service facilities.

The reason for the rate in the dollar for this category is to reflect the level of rating required to raise the necessary revenue to operate efficiently and provide the diverse range of services and programs and associated infrastructure/facilities required for developed residential and urban areas. Also to further the City's strategic goals to encourage and support residential development in the town sites and organisations that contribute toward a safe, healthy, cohesive and vibrant community.

Council is focussed on sustainably managing its community and infrastructure assets through the funding of renewal and replacement asset programs. These programs include but are not limited to investment in the resealing of roads, replacement and development of footpath networks, refurbishing of public ablutions and other building maintenance programs.

The rate for this category maintains an increase to the average rate for residential properties of 5.17% with an increase in the rate-in-the-dollar of 5.00% for the 2023/24 financial year. The minimum rate of \$1,691 is to ensure that all ratepayers make a reasonable contribution for basic services and infrastructure.

**Commercial / Industrial** – means any land:

- that is predominately used for either:
  - commercial purposes;
  - tourism purposes;
  - industrial purposes;
  - a combination of industrial, commercial and tourism purposes;
- or**
- which is vacant of any construction, and is zoned as Commercial, Tourism, Town Centre, Industrial or Mixed Business under the City's Planning Scheme.
- or**
- that does not have the characteristics of any other GRV differential rate category.

The reason for the rate in the dollar for this category is to recognise a greater share of costs associated with economic development, tourism and marketing, parking, LIA infrastructure, environmental health and regulatory services, and CBD infrastructure and amenity. The objective is to raise revenue to contribute toward associated costs, but not limited to, rubbish collection in relevant areas, town planning control costs, health inspections and administration costs, complexity in building control, traffic volumes and vehicle mass due to commercial and industrial activity, parking facilities, traffic management, pedestrian access, commercial and industrial signage, visitor servicing and street furniture.

Council is focussed on sustainably managing its community and infrastructure assets through the funding of renewal and replacement asset programs. These programs include but are not limited to investment in the resealing of roads (including reconstruction of major distributor roads within the LIA) and replacement and development of footpaths.

This category is an amalgamation of the previous Commercial and Industrial differential rating categories. The rate for this category maintains an increase to the average rate for properties of 5.80% with an increase in the rate-in-the-dollar of 5.00% for the 2023/24 financial year. The minimum rate of \$1,691 is to ensure that all ratepayers make a reasonable contribution for basic services and infrastructure.

**Airport / Strategic Industry – means any land:**

- which is located within Karratha Airport (Reserve #30948);  
**or**
- that is predominately used for the purpose of resource processing.

The reasons for the category are to recognise a greater share of costs associated with economic development, tourism and marketing, parking, and transport infrastructure associated with heavy plant and equipment.

In order to ensure that Council can maintain and sustain these infrastructure assets and services, a higher differential rate is proposed to be struck.

Strategic Industry – properties with a land use of Strategic Industry have State or Regional significance which utilise a proportionately high level of infrastructure assets due to heavy haulage vehicle movements. In addition, they also impact on the provision of environmental and strategic planning services as well as access to all other services and facilities provided by Council.

Airport - properties located in the Karratha Airport Precinct (second busiest airport in Western Australia) receive direct benefit from significant Airport Infrastructure and services more so than any other ratepayer. In addition, these properties have access to all other services and facilities provided by Council.

Karratha Airport is a strategic asset of Council and the services afforded to Airport properties are of significant benefit. Operating costs of circa \$8 million (excludes recoverable costs) are forecast for 2022/23 with similar operating costs (plus associated CPI and Utility increases) anticipated for 2023/24.

Council's significant terminal (2015) and forecourt, carpark (2017) and Bayly Avenue (2021) redevelopment projects provide a higher amenity and service to airport properties.

The rate for this category results in an increase to the average rate for properties of 4.91% with an increase in the rate-in-the-dollar of 5.00% for the 2023/24 financial year. The minimum rate of \$1,691 is to ensure that all ratepayers make a reasonable contribution for basic services and infrastructure.

**Transient Workforce Accommodation / Workforce Accommodation – means any land:**

- that is predominately used for the purpose of workforce accommodation;  
**or**
- that is predominately used for the purpose of transient workforce accommodation;  
**or**
- that has been zoned as Transient Workforce.

The rate in the dollar for the Transient Workforce Accommodation / Workforce Accommodation (TWA) category is proposed to be three point nine six times (x3.96) the Residential rate category (also the lowest GRV rate in the dollar category).

This differential rate maintains a proportional share of rating required to raise the necessary revenue to operate efficiently and provide the diverse range of services and programs and associated infrastructure/facilities required for developed residential and urban areas. These services, programs and facilities are available to FIFO workers in the same manner as they are available to all other residents of the City and the contribution from this category has been set at a level that reflects this fact.

Council is focussed on sustainably managing its community and infrastructure assets through the funding of renewal and replacement asset programs. These programs include but are not limited to investment in the resealing of roads, replacement, and development of footpath networks, refurbishing of public ablutions and other building maintenance programs. In addition, these properties have access to all other services and facilities provided by Council.

The rates per TWA accommodation unit are less than the equivalent rate per residential accommodation unit and are significantly less than the minimum rate of \$1,691 for a single bedroom residence. Despite the lower rate per accommodation unit, TWA properties have the potential to have a greater impact on Council services/assets than other properties due to their number of occupants in a relatively small land parcel (i.e. concentrated coach/vehicle movements on local roads). In order to appropriately maintain and manage Council's asset and infrastructure in the longer term, a higher differential rate is proposed for this category to reflect the greater potential and actual intensity of use of Council assets and infrastructure.

The rate for this category supports Council's preferred option that the operational workforce associated with resource interests be housed in normal residential properties within the town boundaries.

The rate for this category maintains results in an increase to the average rate for TWA's of 6.43% with an increase in the rate-in-the-dollar of 5.00% for the 2023/24 financial year. The increase per assessment average is due to one large new camp becoming operational and rateable this year. The minimum rate of \$1,691 is to ensure that all ratepayers make a reasonable contribution for basic services and infrastructure.

## UNIMPROVED VALUE PROPERTIES (UV)

Properties that are predominantly of a rural purpose are assigned an Unimproved Value that is supplied and updated by the Valuer General on an annual basis.

Table 2 below summarises the proposed 2023/24 minimum payments and rates in the dollar for Unimproved Values:

**Table 2: Proposed differential rates for 2023/24 financial year (UV)  
Including average rate per assessment**

Differential Rates 2023/24				
Category	Proposed Minimum Payment	Proposed Rate in the Dollar	Proposed Average Rate per Property	Change in Average Rate
<b>Unimproved Value</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>%</b>
Pastoral	355	0.113093	22,589	5.0
Mining/Other	355	0.145025	3,318	5.0
Strategic Industry (UV)	355	0.201747	202,878	5.0

**Pastoral** – means any land:

- that currently has a pastoral lease granted;  
**and**
- that is used predominantly for the purpose of grazing (including agistment), dairying, pig-farming, poultry farming, fish farming, tree farming, bee-keeping, viticulture, horticulture, fruit growing or the growing of crops of any kind or for any combination of these activities.

This rating category reflects the level of rating required to raise the necessary revenue to operate efficiently and provide for rural infrastructure and services in addition to the urban services, programs and infrastructure which are available to be accessed by the properties in this category.

The land is predominately used for providing a tourism service, including Caravan Parks and Holiday Accommodation. The reason for a lower rate applied to the UV Tourism category, as compared to UV Mining/Industrial, is to reflect the lower level of impact these activities have on general infrastructure and facilities including road infrastructure, recreation facilities and the permanent nature of the business activity relevant to mining and related industry

The rate for this category maintains an increase to the average rate for Pastoral Stations of 5.00% with an increase in the rate-in-the-dollar of 5.00% for the 2023/24 financial year. The UV minimum rate of \$355 is to ensure that all ratepayers make a reasonable contribution for basic services and infrastructure.

**Mining / Other** – means any land:

- that a mining, exploration, prospecting or retention lease and/or license has been granted;  
**or**
- that does not have the characteristics of any other UV differential rate category.

The reason for this category is to reflect the impact on utilisation of rural infrastructure (comparative to Pastoral) by heavy transport and associated higher traffic volumes. In addition, these properties have access to all other services and facilities provided by Council.

The rate for this category maintains an increase to the average rate for Mining/Other properties of 15.45% with an increase in the rate-in-the-dollar of 5.00% for the 2023/24 financial year. The UV minimum rate of \$355 is to ensure that all ratepayers make a reasonable contribution for basic services and infrastructure.

**Strategic Industry** – means any land:

- that is predominately used for industrial purposes;  
**or**
- that is predominately used for the purpose of resource processing;  
**or**
- that is predominately used for the purpose of supporting a transient workforce.

The reasons for this category are to reflect the impact on utilisation of urban and rural infrastructure (comparative to Pastoral) by heavy transport and associated higher traffic volumes by operations associated with State Agreements and/or significant resource sector operations. In addition, these properties have access to all other services and facilities provided by Council.

Properties with a land use of Strategic Industry have State or Regional significance, many of which are subject to legacy State Agreement Acts that limit the method of valuation to UV with restrictive formulae for the calculation of the valuation. The higher differential rate for this category is proposed in order to levy a somewhat commensurate rate comparative with their impact on the local community (i.e. heavy haulage vehicle movements, environmental health, strategic planning).

This category has a reduction to the average rate for UV Strategic Industry properties of 6.41% despite an increase in the rate-in-the-dollar of 5.00% for the 2023/24 financial year due to the anticipated closure of the Devil Creek Gas Plant. The UV minimum rate of \$355 is to ensure that all ratepayers make a minimum contribution for basic services and infrastructure.