

Shire President's Message

I'm proud to share the Shire of Denmark's 2025/2026 Annual Budget. This year's budget reflects our continuing commitment to the needs of our community—**better roads, strong community facilities and environmental care**. Residents will no doubt be aware of our decision to increase rates. This adjustment ensures we can further invest in the infrastructure and initiatives that matter most to our residents, while continuing to deliver essential services to our community.

Roadworks will remain a significant focus this year, as we broaden the scope of our planned improvements. Our comprehensive program includes drainage upgrades, gravel resheeting, road widening, and realignment across crucial parts of our road network. This will improve road safety, reduce long-term maintenance costs, and enhance access across the Shire, especially in areas that have experienced wear and tear over time. Through a combination of rates and grant funding, we plan to spend \$3,571,500 on roads this year, up from \$2,274,283 last year.

Our rates will enable the Shire to better support our community's health and well-being. Following your feedback on our recent Community Events Review Survey, we're increasing funding to our Shire-supported events this financial year. This uplift will allow us to provide bigger, more vibrant events and ensure we continue to offer our community a calendar of meaningful and enjoyable celebrations throughout the year.

We will be installing new outdoor gym equipment at Peaceful Bay and upgrading the gym equipment at the Denmark Recreation Centre. Denmark townsite will also receive more ACROD bays to upgrade the accessibility of our parking. These, and other planned enhancements, will provide more opportunities for residents to stay active and enjoy healthy lifestyles in accessible, well-equipped spaces.

The exciting redevelopment of Berridge Park has commenced. Earlier this year, this project, already jointly funded by the Shire of Denmark, Lotterywest, and the WA State Government, received further funding from the Federal Government's Growing Regions Program. Now fully funded, the Shire has started the engagement process to find a suitable contractor to commence the detailed design works, with an anticipated construction start in early 2026. This marks the first step in revitalising a key public space in the heart of Denmark, creating more opportunities for recreation, social connection, and youth engagement.

Of course, the completion of the Surf Club and Ocean Beach precinct redevelopment will be one of this year's highlights. The current public realm works will provide upgraded facilities and improved access to one of our most cherished coastal areas. Completing this major project, led by the Shire with contributions from Denmark Surf Life Saving Club, the WA State Government and Lotterywest, will enhance community use and ensure the area remains safe and welcoming for future generations.

Our rates continue to allow us to invest in safeguarding our natural environment and supporting efforts to move to sustainable energy sources. Additional funding will allow us to enhance our EV infrastructure across the Denmark townsite by installing new charging stations. We will also double our contribution to South Coast Bushcare, allowing them to increase the output of their amazing work in managing and protecting our unique bushland.

The 2025/2026 budget, the result of hard work by our staff and Councillors, is shaped by your input and aims to reinvest in our community significantly. Thank you for helping guide our decisions. We're committed to delivering projects that make Denmark an even better place for our residents and ratepayers to live.

Kingsley Gibson
Shire President

YOUR PRIORITIES FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Following our recent Community Scorecard Survey, you told us your priorities for our community:

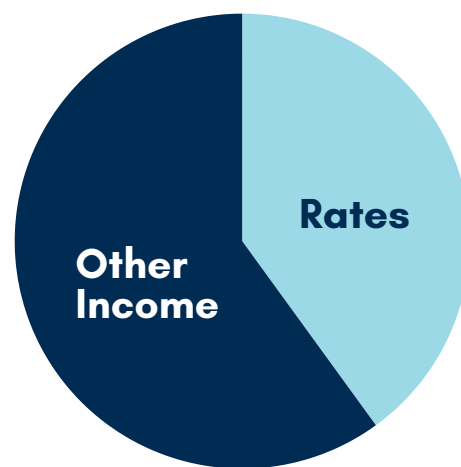
- Continued focus on improving our roads
- Access to housing
- Responsible growth and development of our community
- Conservation and environmental management

Our ratepayer dollars directly go towards delivering ongoing services in line with community priorities.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS 2025/26

Roads, paths, drains and bridges	\$3,361,500
Ocean Beach	\$1,740,000
Berridge Park	\$1,500,000
Community Contributions	\$1,185,838
Community infrastructure upgrades	\$491,000

Our Rates in Action



Did You Know? We work hard to make rates revenue go more than double the distance, ensuring value for money for our community.

