



Bird's-eye view of Nullagine town

BUDGET NEWSLETTER

2026/2027

Shire of EAST
Pilbara
THE HEART OF THE PILBARA

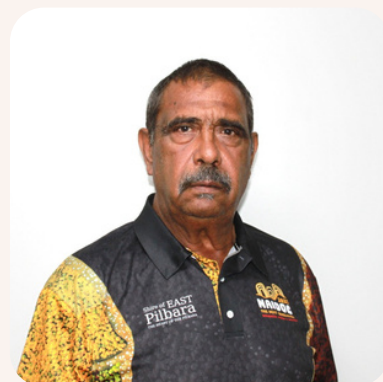
YOUR COUNCIL



Anthony Middleton
Shire President



Peta Baer
Deputy Shire President
South Ward



Wayne Ball
North Ward



Milton Chapman
East Ward



David Kular
South Ward



Annabell Landy
East Ward



Lou Lockyer
South Ward



**Wendy McWhirter
Brooks**
North Ward



Troy Patching
South Ward

MESSAGE FROM THE SHIRE PRESIDENT

I am pleased to present the Shire of East Pilbara's Budget Newsletter for 2026/2027.

This Budget marks the start of our Resilient by Design approach: building infrastructure and services that will last, planning major projects over their full life, and focusing spending on long-term community priorities rather than short-term fixes.

Council has adopted a Budget with operating expenditure of \$118.1 million, operating revenue of \$117.4 million, and a capital works program of more than \$234 million. This is one of the largest annual capital works programs in WA local government and a major investment in the future of the East Pilbara.

Major projects include \$49 million for the Newman Wastewater Treatment Plant, \$45.8 million for our roads program, \$33.1 million for the Newman Youth and Community Hub, \$31 million for the additional taxiway at Newman Airport and \$4.08 million for the Cape Keraudren boat ramp.

Because these are long-life assets, Council is using loan funding where appropriate so their costs are spread across the years they will serve the community, rather than being met in a single budget year.

The Budget also maintains the everyday services our communities rely on, including waste, parks and gardens, libraries, aquatic facilities, sport and recreation, youth and family services, community safety, events, arts and culture.

The final Budget was revised following the State's decision not to approve the Shire's proposed higher differential rate for large-scale transient workforce accommodation to create a more balanced rating system.

Council proposed the higher rate to create a fairer balance across the Shire's rating system. This was not about increasing rates for their own sake. It was about ensuring local residents, businesses and pastoral ratepayers were not expected to carry an inequitable share of the infrastructure costs associated with supporting one of Australia's largest mining regions.

Council is disappointed the proposed rate was not approved, but we accept the State's decision and have adjusted our rate settings and Budget accordingly. We will continue advocating for a fair and sustainable funding framework that properly recognises the demands placed on East Pilbara communities and infrastructure.

Despite those adjustments, this Budget delivers an important program of investment while maintaining essential services across Australia's largest local government area.

On behalf of Council, I thank our community, partners and Shire staff for the work that keeps the East Pilbara moving forward.

Anthony Middleton
Shire President



VALE LANG COPPIN OAM

Freeman of the Shire | Councillor 1977-2023

The Shire of East Pilbara is deeply saddened by the passing of Langtree Coppin OAM, Freeman of the Shire and former Councillor and Deputy Shire President.

Lang served on Council for more than 46 years, from his first election in 1977 until his retirement in late 2023. Throughout that time, he was a strong advocate for Marble Bar, the pastoral community and people living and working across the region.

Lang's connection to the East Pilbara ran deep. His family's association with Yarrie Station dated back to the 1880s, and his own experience as a cattleman and pilot gave him a first-hand understanding of the importance of reliable road access across the region.

He was closely involved in securing support for major road projects and took particular pride in the development of the Marble Bar to Alice Springs Road. Shortly before his retirement, Lang reflected on the importance of this work:

**“
Roads are the
backbone
and the
economy of
the area.**

Lang's contribution was recognised with the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2013 Queen's Birthday Honours for service to the community. In March 2024, he received the Shire's highest honour when he was made a Freeman of the Shire.

His local knowledge, practical experience and long commitment to the East Pilbara leave a lasting mark.

On behalf of Council and the Shire, we extend our sincere condolences to Lang's family, friends and the many people who knew and worked alongside him.





Chinaman's Pool, Marble Bar

BUDGET 2026/2027

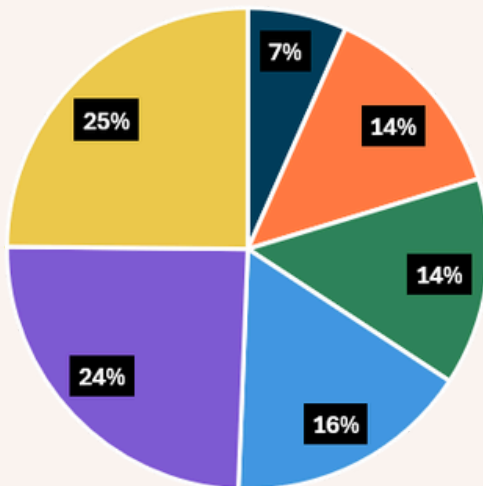
OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Operational Highlights

Aquatic Services	\$2,693,400
Parks & Gardens	\$2,656,860
Event Management	\$1,778,500
Recreation & Fitness	\$1,508,200
Youth & Family Services	\$1,480,950
Library Services	\$720,100

Capital Works

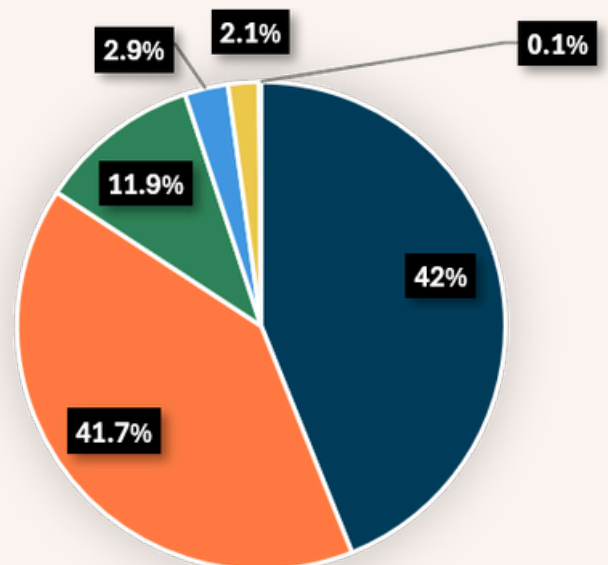
Buildings & Facilities	\$86,592,075
Infrastructure	\$147,596,978
TOTAL	\$234,189,053



- Aquatic Services - 25%
- Parks & Gardens - 24%
- Event Management - 16%
- Recreation & Fitness - 14%
- Youth & Family Services - 14%
- Library Services - 7%

Operating revenue

- Rates - 42%
- Fees & Charges (Airport / Landfill / Sewerage) - 41.7%
- Grants & Subsidies - 11.9%
- Interest - 2.9%
- Other Revenue / Income - 2.1%
- Services Charges - 0.1%



SHARING THE COST OF ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The Newman Wastewater Treatment Plant supports homes, businesses, community facilities and future growth across the town. In Newman, wastewater treatment is managed by the Shire, not Water Corporation. This means the Shire is responsible for operating, maintaining and renewing the plant, as well as ensuring treated wastewater is managed and disposed of responsibly.

The current upgrade will improve the plant's capacity, reliability and environmental performance.

Because the upgraded plant will serve Newman for decades, it would not be fair or practical for one generation of ratepayers to carry the full cost. The Shire is funding the project over time, including through long-term borrowings, so it can be repaid across the life of the asset and shared more fairly between current and future users.

The sewerage charge on Newman rates notices helps fund the operation, maintenance and renewal of the wastewater system. It is separate from general rates and applies to properties within the Newman sewerage area.

HOW YOUR RATES ARE CALCULATED

1

Total rates required to run the Local Government

COST

OF RUNNING THE
SHIRE OF EAST PILBARA

—

NON-RATE REVENUE

FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN
RATES (GRANTS, RENTALS,
HIRE/SERVICE CHARGES)

=

RATE REVENUE

REQUIRED TO RUN THE
SHIRE

2

Rate in the dollar calculated

REVENUE

REQUIRED FROM
RATES

÷

COMBINED RENTAL VALUE

OF ALL RATEABLE PROPERTIES
(SUPPLIED BY THE STATE
VALUER GENERAL)

=

RATE

IN THE DOLLAR

3

What you pay

RATE

IN THE DOLLAR

×

YOUR PROPERTY VALUE

AS SET BY THE STATE VALUER
GENERAL (EITHER GRV OR UV)

=

THIS YEAR'S RATES

TO KEEP YOUR
SHIRE RUNNING

HOW YOUR RATES WILL BE SPENT

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



➤ Newman Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Newman Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade is a major investment in essential infrastructure that will support Newman's growth. The project will increase capacity, improve reliability and create opportunities to reuse treated water for greener public spaces, helping Newman become more sustainable and prepared for the decades ahead.



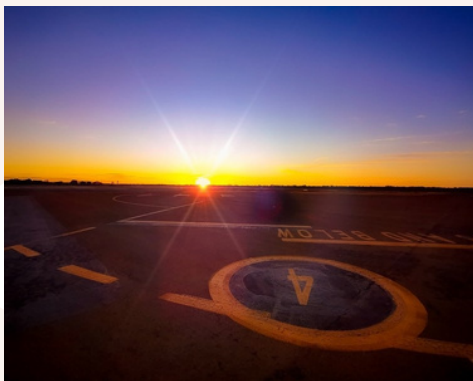
➤ Newman Youth & Community Hub

The new Youth & Community Hub will give Newman a modern, welcoming place for young people, families and community groups to learn, connect and have fun. With library services, dedicated youth spaces, a recording studio, and other flexible spaces for programs and activities, the Hub will bring more opportunities for people of all ages to take part in community life.



➤ Regional Roads

Investing \$45 million in regional roads will help keep our communities connected across vast distances, with safer travel for residents, visitors, freight, emergency services and local industry. We will continue to improve key routes across the Shire, making it easier to move between communities, work sites and essential services.



➤ Airport Taxiway

Investment at Newman Airport will improve access, capacity and the passenger experience at one of the region's most important transport hubs. The taxiway expansion will allow the airport to handle more aircraft movements, while planning continues for the future terminal redevelopment as the next stage of a broader airport upgrade.



➤ Airport Boom Gates

A new ticketless car park management system at Newman Airport will make parking easier, faster and more convenient for travellers. Licence plate recognition technology will automatically manage entry and exit through the boom gates, removing the need for physical tickets and supporting a smoother airport parking experience.

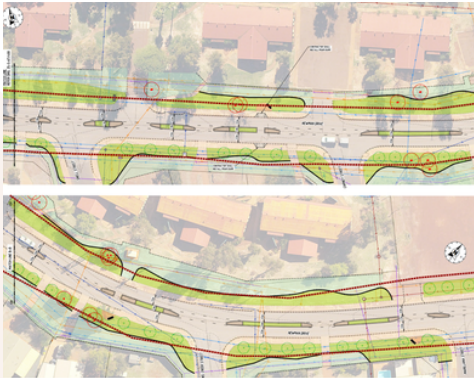


➤ Cape Keraudren Boatramp

The Cape Keraudren boat ramp project will improve access to one of the East Pilbara's favourite coastal destinations, making it easier and safer for people to enjoy boating, fishing, camping and day trips. Once delivered, the new ramp will support residents and visitors to make the most of this special part of the Shire.

HOW YOUR RATES WILL BE SPENT

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



Streetscaping

The Newman Drive streetscape upgrade will refresh one of Newman's most visible town centre corridors, from the big roundabout through to Lee Lane. New garden beds, tree planting and other improvements will provide more shade, deliver passive road safety benefits, and make better use of recycled water to support a greener, more attractive town centre.



Playgrounds

Playground upgrades across the Shire will help create safer, more welcoming spaces for children and families to enjoy. By improving local parks and play areas, the Shire is investing in the everyday places where families meet, kids stay active and communities come together.



Drainage Upgrades

The Newman Drive stormwater drainage upgrade will replace ageing and collapsed drainage pipes with stronger reinforced concrete infrastructure, helping the system operate during heavy rain and flooding. These works will also remove open excavations and safety fencing, returning the verge to a safer, cleaner and more usable streetscape.

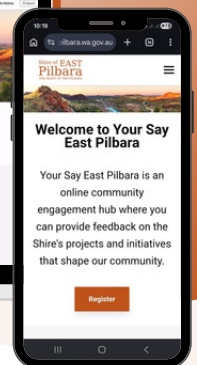
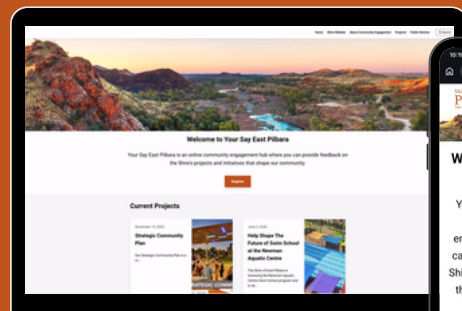


East Newman Revitalisation

The East Newman revitalisation will help improve the look, feel and liveability of the area, with new tree planting to provide more shade and enhance local streets. The project will also support work to address old, dilapidated housing, helping create a cleaner, safer and more welcoming neighbourhood for residents and families.

Have your say!

You're invited to share your thoughts on our current projects.



Visit yoursay.eastpilbara.wa.gov.au to see the latest project updates and provide feedback.

INVESTING ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES

While several of the Shire's largest infrastructure projects are located in Newman, the 2026/2027 Budget also continues important investment in Marble Bar, Nullagine and remote communities across the East Pilbara.

In Nullagine and Marble Bar, the 2026/2027 Budget continues investment in local infrastructure that supports stronger, better connected communities.

NULLAGINE AND MARBLE BAR

In Nullagine, the new pool is already delivering major benefits, with 2,188 entries recorded since opening. Through the No School, No Pool program, the town has also seen improved school engagement, including increased attendance and enrolments, along with a reduction in child clinic presentations for ear, nose, eye and skin conditions.

In Marble Bar, airport investment is improving regional connections & creating new opportunities for residents. Last year's works rebuilt the runway, taxiway and apron, allowing larger passenger aircraft to land and giving locals access to mining charter flights. In 2026/2027, the Shire will continue this progress by installing a terminal building at the Airport.



INVESTING ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES

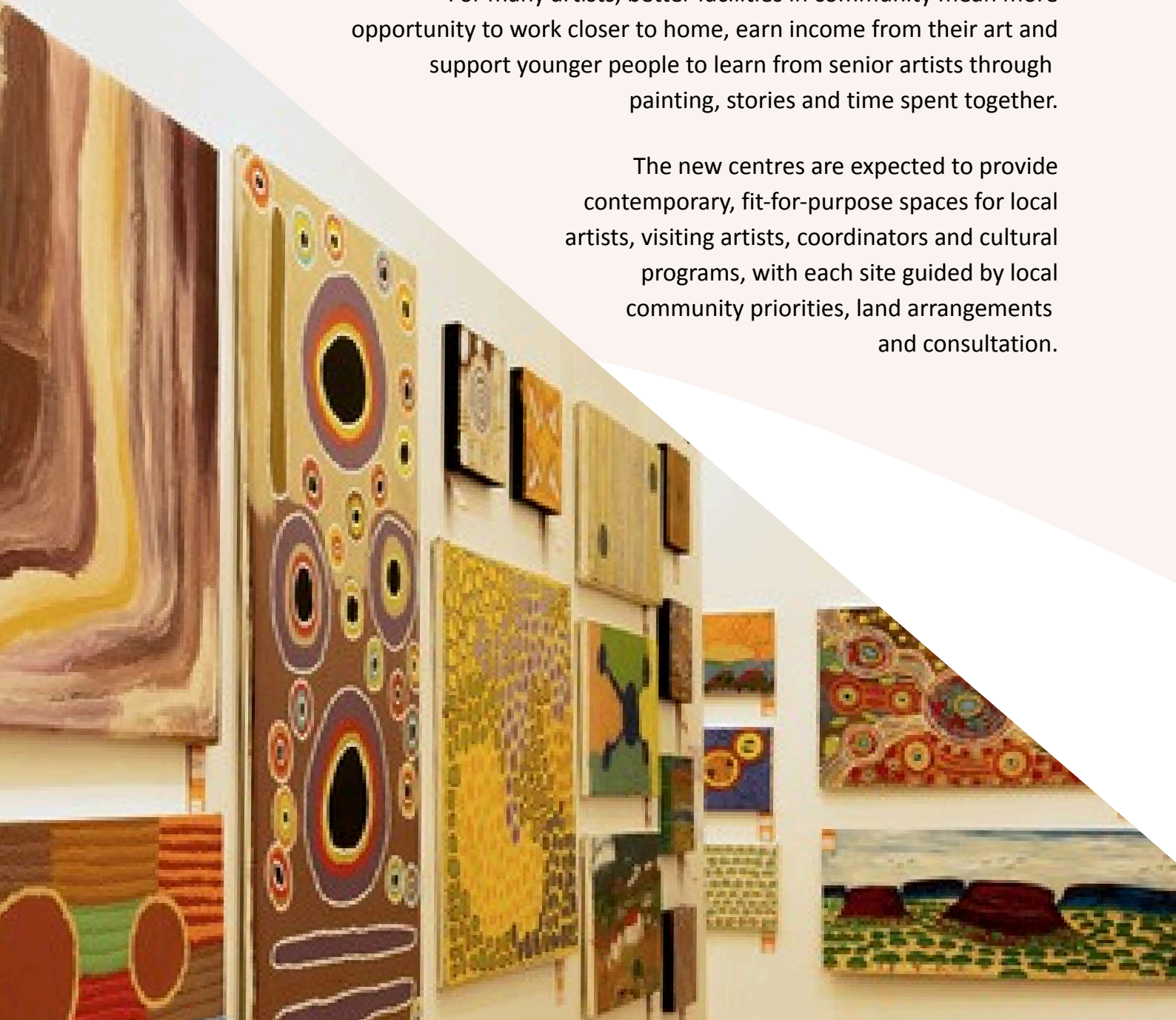
SUPPORTING MARTUMILI ARTISTS CLOSER TO HOME

The Martu Art Centres Improvement Project will support new, culturally appropriate art centre facilities in Kunawarritji, Punmu and Jigalong.

The project is being progressed in partnership with the Shire and Jamukurnu-Yapalikurnu Aboriginal Corporation (JYAC) and community partners to provide better spaces for Martumili artists to create, exhibit and sell their work, while strengthening cultural learning and knowledge sharing between generations.

For many artists, better facilities in community mean more opportunity to work closer to home, earn income from their art and support younger people to learn from senior artists through painting, stories and time spent together.

The new centres are expected to provide contemporary, fit-for-purpose spaces for local artists, visiting artists, coordinators and cultural programs, with each site guided by local community priorities, land arrangements and consultation.



RESIDENT AIRPORT PARKING CARD



*Apply for free via
the Shire website!*

The annual renewal of Resident Airport Parking Cards is due on 30th September.

With the Newman Airport boom gates being returned to normal operation, residents who use airport parking will need to make sure their card is current before travelling.

You can renew your existing card or apply for a new card online through the Shire website.

SCAN ME!



\$250 Rebate

We have increased the owner-occupier rebate to \$250 for all residential ratepayers throughout the Shire East Pilbara.

SCAN ME!



Surcharges Explained

Some properties may see separate service charges on their rates notice in addition to general rates. These charges help fund specific services provided by the Shire.

In Newman, the sewerage charge helps fund the Shire-owned sewerage network and wastewater treatment system, which is delivered by the Shire rather than the Water Corporation.

The Community Safety charge supports public safety initiatives across our towns, including CCTV upgrades, new camera locations and work with WA Police to support crime prevention and investigations.



Questions?

Contact the Shire of East Pilbara.



www.eastpilbara.wa.gov.au



08 9175 8000

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