

August | 2025

Welcome to Djilba - The first spring. The second rains. Season of conception.

A message from our
Shire President and
CEO

Meet the new CEDM

Refreshed logo

2025-2026 Budget

this month...



Full issue can be found on our website www.gnowangerup.wa.gov.au

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Gnowangerup Shire News

August 2025



Shire President - Kate O'Keeffe Monthly Message



I hope everyone across the Shire is keeping well—and hasn't frozen solid after last month's record-breaking cold snap!

A big congratulations to Livingston Medical on celebrating their first anniversary of providing GP services within our Shire. The Shire of Gnowangerup is proud to be a proactive partner in the delivery of local healthcare. Having a GP based in our community not only ensures our hospital can stay open but also keeps our pharmacy thriving—vital services that support the health and wellbeing of us all.

Last week, I had the opportunity to meet with fellow Shire Presidents from our Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (VROC). These quarterly meetings allow us to collaborate, share challenges, and identify ways we can work together for better outcomes across our region.

July also saw fantastic NAIDOC Week celebrations, and I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks and congratulations to all those involved. The NAIDOC Dinner at the Gnowangerup Sporting Complex was a particular highlight, with many special stories shared by community members. I hope we can build on the success of this year and see even more people involved in future celebrations.

It's also wonderful to see the activity at the Gnowangerup Town Hall. The ceiling has been removed, revealing the original structure, which is now being carefully restored close to its original state. I'm very much looking forward to the official reopening and the opportunity for everyone to come and see the transformation for themselves.

Discussions with the IGA owners are continuing, and they remain committed to reopening in the original IGA building by the end of September. I know the whole community has their fingers and toes crossed that this will come to fruition.

Be sure to follow the Borden Pavilion on Instagram—they have a fantastic event planned for August as part of the Small Halls Celebration. It promises to be a great evening, with the option to enjoy both the show and a community dinner. Head to their Instagram page for all the details!



/bordenpavilion/

Gnowangerup Shire News

August 2025



Shire President - Kate O'Keeffe Monthly Message cont.

A reminder that nominations for Local Government Elections open at the end of August for just one week. If you've ever considered putting your hand up, now is the time to start thinking about it. I encourage anyone interested in becoming a councillor to come along to our August Council Meeting to see how local government works in practice. Being an elected member is a fantastic way to support and represent your town and the wider Shire. I'm always happy to chat with anyone who's considering nominating.

Over recent weeks, Council has been working closely with the executive team to finalise the 2025–26 Budget. This is no small task, and I want to thank Deputy CEO Chiara Galbraith and CEO David Nicholson for their tireless efforts and dedication.

Rates notices will be issued shortly, and yes—there will be an increase. With rising costs in insurance, wages, and materials across the sector, the demands on our limited rate revenue continue to grow. After two years of a 0% rate increase during COVID, we are still working to recover the financial ground we lost. Council has a clear and responsible long-term plan in place, but it will take time and continued community support to fully restore our financial position.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support and engagement with our Shire.

Warm regards,
Cr Kate O'Keeffe
President, Shire of Gnowangerup

**ORDINARY MEETING OF
COUNCIL**

**Wednesday 17 August
3:30pm**

Gnowangerup Shire News

August 2025



Update from the Chief Executive Officer - David Nicholson



As the Shire President mentioned in her update, Council officially adopted the 2025/26 budget at the end of July. In this edition of the newsletter, you'll find more details about what's planned — including a significant capital spend of \$3.5 million on roads, \$2.2 million on housing, and \$338,000 on infrastructure upgrades.

For a small Shire with a rate base of just \$5.3 million, this is a major investment — and one that reflects our shared commitment to building a bright and sustainable future.

We've also set aside funds to support some exciting community events like Wild Gravel, Fields & Fortunes, and Dandjoo Day. These events not only bring us together but also help showcase the best of our region and support local economic growth.

When shaping the budget, Council listened closely to the priorities you shared during the community consultation for the Shire's Council Plan (see the article "Thank you for helping shape our future" in this issue).

A clear message came through: our community values its sense of connection — whether through our parks and gardens, sports and recreation facilities, or the incredible work of our volunteers. It's something that sets our Shire apart.

At the same time, you told us how important it is to grow our Shire — through better roads, more housing, improved services and stronger economic development. These goals are at the heart of this year's budget and now our focus is on delivering real results.

In positive news on that front, DevelopmentWA is progressing with headworks for both residential land behind Gnowangerup District School and industrial lots in Cuneo Close, Gnowangerup.

The residential release includes five generously sized lots (up to 900m²) and one large 5,948m² lot, while the industrial area will offer six fully serviced lots — all expected to go on sale in the coming weeks.

We're hopeful these land releases will open new doors — bringing more people, businesses, and opportunities to our Shire.

Gnowangerup Shire News

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Introducing the new Community and Economic Development Manager

My name is Stuart Drummond and I am delighted to have recently joined the Shire as the Manager of Community and Economic Development. Since moving to Australia, from the UK, three years ago, I have worked at the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup and, most recently, at the City of Mandurah, where I still live with my family. Although I've only been working in Gnowangerup a few weeks, I have been struck by the vibrancy of the communities here and how dedicated they are to helping improve each town. I've been given such warm welcome by everyone, it is already starting to feel like home.



Like any regional area in Australia, we have our challenges, however, there is huge potential. The local economy is strong but has the potential to grow if we can address some of the issues around housing shortages. We have a fabulous tourism offering, full of hidden gems, that lie pretty much undiscovered. We host one of the best airports in the region and that too, is vastly underutilised. We are nestled in amongst some of the most beautiful natural attractions in Western Australia and yet most people just pass through our towns, without giving them a second glance.

My role with the Shire is a new one and I will be tasked with realising some of this potential by working with the community and the excellent team here at the Shire, to help deliver the strategic objectives of the Shire's new Council Plan. I already feel as though things are starting to gather momentum and I'm excited to start work on the Shire first Economic Development strategy later in the year.

Finally, I'm proud to have been asked to head up the team organising this year's Wild Gravel event. It promises to be a fantastic occasion and the team are doing a fabulous job in pulling everything together. It has already become a firm fixture on the competitive cycling calendar however, the true value of the event will be the impact it has locally. Lots of local residents have already signed up to take part or to volunteer at Wild Gravel on Saturday 11th October and it would be great to see many more, however, come down to Gnowangerup on Friday 10th to enjoy our launch party, take part in a fun run or ride and get involved in our family fun night, with food, live music and lots to do for everyone.

Gnowangerup Shire News

August 2025



A refreshed logo for the Shire

Nearly twelve months ago, we began planning a new Shire website — a long-overdue update to improve access to information and services for our community. As we worked through that project, it became clear that we needed a stronger visual identity to support it — one that was modern, consistent and truly reflected the character of our region. We took a closer look at our logo and the alignment with our strategic goals and realised it was not accessible to everyone, the words were hard to read and the colours blended in too much with low contrast.

To help us fix this, we searched for a graphic designer and after consulting with a few we engaged Danni Jones from Creative Chameleon to lead a logo refresh and develop a clear, usable style guide. Her brief was to refresh — not reinvent — our identity, while giving us a professional colour palette and design direction we could confidently apply across everything from the website and signage to social media and publications.

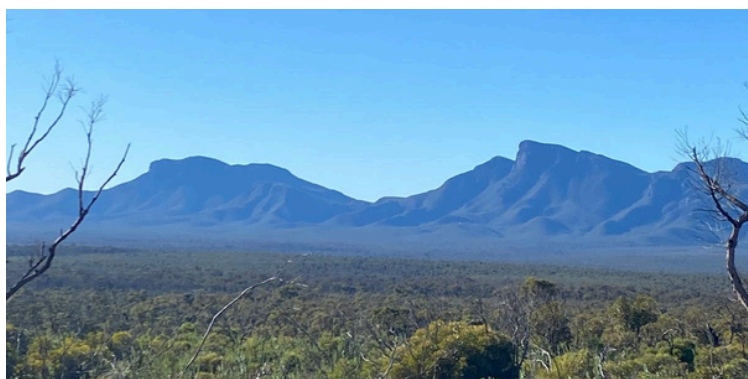
Dani presented five distinct logo concepts, each with a different design approach. After a thorough review and an almost unanimous vote from both staff and Council, one design stood out clearly. From there, we worked closely with Danni to refine the colours, lines and layout — resulting in the new logo below.

The updated design blends the natural colours of the Gnowangerup landscape, including the Stirling Range, bushland, canola fields and ochre earth. The range have been redrawn from a viewpoint on Formby South Rd, and the overlapping colours symbolise the strong connection between the Shire and our three towns — Borden Gnowangerup, and Ongerup. A clean, modern typeface ensures the logo remains clear and professional wherever it appears.

The Communications Team is proud to share this new look with our community. While we're excited to roll it out, we ask for your patience — it will take time to replace all existing logos across signage, documents, vehicles and uniforms. This is a gradual transition, not a one-off switch, and we appreciate your support as we make the change.

We're confident this refreshed identity will serve the Shire well into the future — strong, connected and unmistakably local.

The inspiration



The result



Shire of

GNOWANGERUP

BORDEN • GNOWANGERUP • ONGERUP

Heart of the Stirlings

Welcome to this special community newsletter.



We're pleased to advise the Gnowangerup Council adopted the 2025/26 budget at a Special Council Meeting on Wednesday 30 July 2025.

Developed over several months, the budget reflects

Council's commitment to strengthening local infrastructure, supporting economic growth, and planning for a sustainable future.

The 2025/26 Annual Budget has a number of key projects, with a strong focus on maintaining and upgrading the Shire's road network and critical infrastructure. A rate revenue increase of \$440k (9%) to achieve these essential projects and maintain operations at appropriate service levels is required. This will be leveraged with grant revenue to maximise the benefit to the Shire.

This newsletter provides a breakdown of expenditure and sources of funds for the 2025/26 financial year, which I encourage residents to read.

Earlier this year we undertook a major review of the Strategic Community Plan, and invited our community to provide input on the future strategic planning for our district.

The feedback we received provided the basis for the new Council Plan 2025-2035, adopted earlier this month. This plan identifies our priorities over the long term and sets the strategic direction for our annual budgets.

We express appreciation to the Shire's administration for the process of preparing the Budget, encompassing detailed analysis and preparation, executive review and council member workshops.

If you have any feedback or queries, please contact myself or another council member as your views are important to us.

On behalf of the Council, I extend our sincere thanks to our ratepayers for your continued support and contribution to our local community, enabling the delivery of essential services and projects that enhance our community to be a place where people stay, grow and thrive.

Kate O'Keeffe
Shire President

2025-2026 ANNUAL BUDGET OVERVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS

\$3.5m



ROAD UPGRADES

\$2.2m



HOUSING

\$338k



INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES

OUR SHIRE



4,265 sq km
Area



226 km Sealed
838 km Unsealed
Road Length



1,211
Shire Population

2025-2026 ANNUAL BUDGET OVERVIEW

KEY INITIATIVES

Housing

The shortage of housing is a key focus area, with a range of initiatives planned including strong advocacy measures.

In 2025/26 we will develop of a comprehensive business case to assess the the feasibility of the Quinn Street development, which proposes up to 13 new dwellings for essential government workers (such as teachers and nurses) and Shire staff. Council has adopted a stage gate project management model to ensure good governance and cost control.

The Shire has committed just over \$2 million to construct four staff houses in Whitehead Road & McDonald Street. The timing of construction will depend on the progress of the Quinn Street project.

Economic Development

Community consultation identified the caravan park and airport as key tourism and economic development opportunities.

In 2025/26 we will conduct strategic reviews and explore future options for both facilities.

To support economic development initiatives, we have established of a Community and Economic Development Manager role within the Shire administration.

Infrastructure

In 2025/26 the Shire is planning upgrades to key infrastructure:

- Shire Depot extension \$335,000
- Ongerup sewerage system upgrade \$50,000
- Airport water tank \$33,000
- Airport runway drainage \$68,000

Waste Management

Current waste and recycling practices require improvement, particularly in handling contaminated materials.

This budget includes funding to:

- Assess the future of each waste site
- Review operation costs and useage charges
- Plan for long-term, environmentally responsible waste management

Plant and Equipment

Supporting improvement in operational efficiency and worker safety, the Shire will invest in:

- Backhoe \$268,000
- Plant trailer (low loader) \$80,000
- Slip on water tank unit \$80,000
- Motor vehicles \$230,000
- IT systems and equipment \$100,000

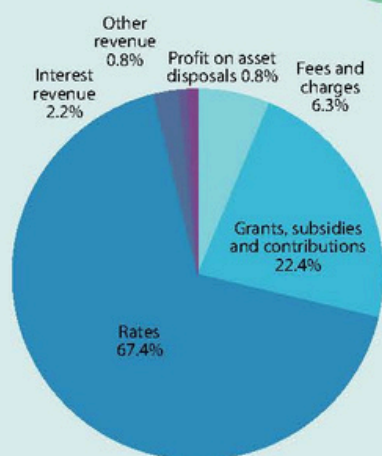


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Gnowangerup WA 6335
08 9827 1007
gnpshire@gnowangerup.wa.gov.au

2025-2026 ANNUAL BUDGET OVERVIEW

REVENUE

\$11.0m



Rates	\$5,343,961
Grants, subsidies and contributions	\$1,778,687
Fees and charges	\$499,566
Interest revenue	\$173,930
Other revenue	\$64,690
Profit on asset disposals	\$63,217

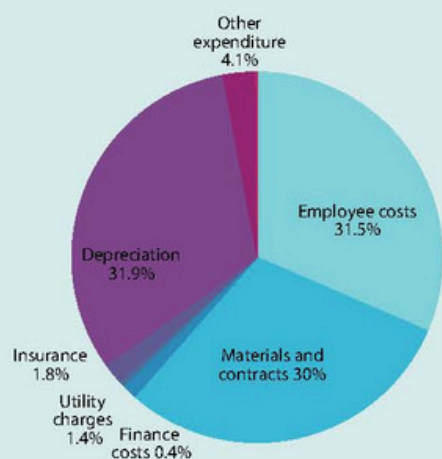
Surplus at 1 July 2025
\$3,691,476

**Early payment of 2025/26
Financial Assistance Grants**
\$1,082,957

Receipt of the 2025/26 allocation of the Financial Assistance Grants in June 2025 is a major component of the surplus at the start of the budget year. The Shire has budgeted for a balanced budget with no surplus forecast at the end of the budget year.

Budgeted revenue is forecast to increase by \$1.1m (11%) from 2024/25, with rates revenue increasing by \$440k (9%).

OPERATING EXPENDITURE **\$13.3m**



Employee costs	\$4,190,858
Materials and contracts	\$3,991,044
Utility charges	\$182,449
Depreciation	\$4,248,904
Finance costs	\$59,340
Insurance	\$242,674
Loss on asset disposals	\$14,250
Other expenditure	\$378,520

There is an increase of 13% in operating expenditure budgeted this year, from \$11.8m budgeted in 2024/25.

KEY INITIATIVES

Road Network

The Shire maintains over 1,000 kilometres of roads, with 80% unsealed.

Maintaining our road network to meet the needs of our community is a priority and the Shire is developing a 10-year Road Network Management Plan to maximise the impact of every dollar spent, provide a clear roadmap for future maintenance and, improve communication with the community about road investment.

Securing long term gravel supplies for future roadworks is a focus this year.

The 2025/26 road works program includes:

- Cowallellup Road resheet \$105,000
- Sandalwood Road resheet \$108,613
- Jackitup Road North resheet \$90,000
- Jackitup Road West resheet \$75,000
- Old Ongerup Road resheet \$160,000
- Magitup Road resheet \$140,000
- Oakdale Road resheet \$35,000
- Tieline Road resheet \$95,000
- Tieline Road reconstruct & reseal and floodways \$381,766
- Borden-Bremer Bay Road widening \$1,450,000
- Kwobrup Road widening \$600,809



Gnowangerup Shire News

August 2025



Thank You for Helping Shape Our Future

Over the past 12 months, the Shire has undertaken a review of the Strategic Community Plan as part of the development of the new Council Plan 2025–2035. We're proud to now share the final version – a plan that reflects the voices, values and ambitions of our community.

We want to thank everyone who contributed to this important process. In March, we held a series of community workshops, starting in Borden, where 19 people attended on Monday 10 March. The following evening in Ongerup, 9 residents came together to share their ideas, and on Wednesday 12 March, we had a turnout of 24 people in Gnowangerup.

The Shire also engaged more deeply with parts of our community that are often underrepresented. Our consultant, Jess from Moore Australia, met with members of the Aboriginal community at the Gnowangerup Aboriginal Centre, and spoke with local Filipino residents at the Gnowangerup Family Support Association. We also received 80 survey responses which added even more depth to the insights gathered.

All of this input has been brought together in a clear, accessible document that outlines the community's priorities and aspirations for the next decade. Council worked closely with Jess to translate this feedback into a practical, strategic plan that will guide decisions, actions and investment across the Shire.

The Council Plan 2025–2035 is a valuable resource not just for Council, but for the whole community. It can support local groups and individuals when applying for grants, setting goals, or advocating for change. It shows where we're going and how we plan to get there – as a community where people **stay, grow and thrive**.

You can download a copy from the Shire website under *Council > Public Documents > Integrated Plans*, or request a printed copy by contacting the Shire office.



WALGA, together with the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) and the WA Electoral Commission (WAEC), will be hosting a candidate information webinar ahead of nominations opening on 28 August.

The webinar will be held at 6:00pm on Monday, 18 August 2025.

This session is designed to support individuals considering nominating, providing an overview of:

- Election processes
- Responsibilities of Local Government and Council Members
- Regulatory role of LGIRS

The following presenters will cover a range of topics, with the aim of preparing candidates for the electoral process, and if elected, life as a Council Member:

Hon. Hannah Beazley MLA - Minister for Local Government; Disability Services; Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne.

Karen Chappel AM JP, President, WALGA.

Dennis O'Reilly, Acting WA Electoral Commissioner & Phillip Richards, Manager of Election Events.

Erin Gauntlett - LGIRS Deputy Director General

Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services, WALGA

Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions during the session.

The Shire of Gnowangerup will be hosting a viewing in Council Chambers. All welcome.

The webinar will be recorded and will be made available following the event. To register follow the QR code.

**Please direct any enquiries to WALGA's
Governance team at
governance@walga.asn.au
or call 9213 2514.**



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORDINARY ELECTION
CLOSE OF ENROLMENTS
Shire of Gnowangerup
ROLL CLOSE: 5:00 PM Friday, 22 August 2025**

You may be eligible to be enrolled to vote in the local government elections on 18 October 2025 if you live in or are an owner or occupier of rateable property in the Shire of Gnowangerup.

Residents

You are automatically enrolled to vote if you are on the State Electoral Roll as at 5:00 PM Friday, 22 August 2025. If you are not already on the State Electoral Roll and meet the eligibility criteria, or if you have changed address recently, you must complete an enrolment form.

Enrolment Forms

You can enrol or update your details online, or download an enrolment form, via the Western Australian Electoral Commission website (www.elections.wa.gov.au/enrol). Forms are also available from the Australian Electoral Commission (www.aec.gov.au). Enrolments and updates must be completed and received by 5:00 PM Friday, 22 August 2025.

Non-Resident Owners and Occupiers

If you are a non-resident owner or occupier of rateable property in the Shire of Gnowangerup and are on the State or Commonwealth Electoral Roll, you are eligible to enrol to vote. Owners of land who were on the last Local Government roll continue to retain that status until they cease to own the rateable property to which the enrolment relates. Occupiers do not have continuous enrolment and should contact the Shire of Gnowangerup to confirm their enrolment status. To be eligible to enrol as an occupier, you will need to have a right of continuous occupation under a lease, tenancy agreement or other legal instrument for at least the next three months following the date of the application to enrol and have paid rent for at least the prescribed amount.

Joint Owners and Occupiers

If a rateable property is owned or occupied by more than two people, a majority of the owners/occupiers may nominate two persons from amongst themselves who are on either the State or Commonwealth Electoral Roll, to enrol as owner/occupier electors.

Corporations

A body corporate that owns or occupies rateable property may nominate two people who are officers of the body corporate that are on either the State or Commonwealth Electoral Roll to enrol as owner/occupier electors.

Enrolment Forms – Non-Resident Owners and Occupiers Only

Enrolment forms can be obtained from local governments and must be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer by 5:00 PM Friday, 22 August 2025. Further information can be obtained from the Shire of Gnowangerup.