



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Shire of Esperance

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# PROPOSED RATES FOR 2016

Council have endorsed the differential rates for 2016/17 budget and resolved to advertise the proposed Differential and Minimum Rates. Submissions on the proposed rates are accepted from now till 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

Differential Rate Category	Cents in the Dollar	Minimum Rate
GRV Residential	0.089034	\$1030
GRV Commercial	0.092595	\$1030
GRV Vacant	0.089034	\$1030
- Vacant (Lesser Minimum)	0.089034	\$515
UV Commercial	0.008944	\$1030
UV Rural	0.008944	\$1030
- UV Rural (Lesser Service)	0.008944	\$515
UV Mining	0.085690	\$515

A statement of objects and reasons for the proposed differential rates is available for inspection at the Shire Administration Office, Windich Street, Esperance during office hours.

Shire President Victoria Brown said "Council's commitment to strong asset management and financial sustainability have allowed Council to change the notional figure in the Long Term Financial Plan of 6.5%. The proposed differential rates will mean an increase in rates of 4.5% per rateable property. This has been achieved through efficiency gains across the organisation and through the rationalisation of services. We are focused on implementing efficiencies and delivering high quality services to the whole community."

"The proposed differential rates will see an average increase of \$59 per household (approximately \$29 per eligible pensioner)."

Cr Brown stated "While we would all like to see a nil increase in rates, this isn't practical. We often hear that we should base rate increases on CPI but unfortunately CPI does not take into account asset management, the cost of maintenance on community infrastructure or include the increasing costs of the types of materials a local government purchases. We are committed to providing sustainable services to our community and making sure our intergenerational assets are looked after."

The Differential rates proposed will allow the Shire to continue to reduce the identified asset management gap while ensuring funding is made available for major projects. The Long Term Financial Plan has determined that the rates yield required to ensure a balanced budget whilst allocating an additional \$500,000 towards rural road re-sheeting requires an increase in yield on average of approximately 4.5%.

Submissions are to be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 507, Esperance WA 6450 or submitted at the Shire of Esperance Office, Windich Street, Esperance. Submissions close 4pm on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

**Ends**

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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

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