

RESIDENTIAL CATEGORY - Submissions from Facebook – Comments on posts dated 1, 14, and 25 May 2026

Submission	Response
<p>How about Woodside Rio and Yara cough up some funds and ratepayers get a reduction in rates</p>	<p>Hi, thanks for your comment. For the 2026/27 financial year, properties valued using Unimproved Value (UV) (including Pastoral, Mining/Other, and Strategic Industry), are proposed to increase by 6%.</p> <p>While major industry contributes through rates and other economic activity, the City must apply rates in line with valuation categories to create a fair and balanced distribution across all ratepayers.</p>
<p>When did Gross Rental Value become a thing? I guess everyon knows that WA is the only state that uses the Gross Rental Value system? What if I am living in my home in Karratha? That should be a consideration of Council</p>	<p>Letter Added to WWMI page. This is proof the City is advocating for a fairer rating system. Main responses were given by the CEO:</p> <p>Hi, the GRV is the method set by State Government legislation. The City has sent a letter to the state government to advise that this model doesn't work in Karratha.</p>
<p>According to the associated report issued by the City contribution from mining tenements is less than 5%, request was made to the CEO to provide a more specific breakdown of those catagories then?</p>	<p>Hi, thank you for your comment. For clarification, resource-related contributions are spread across multiple categories in the rates model. This is because resource companies often have a presence across operational facilities, accommodation villages, airport-related infrastructure, and/or strategic industrial land holdings. This includes:</p> <p>GRV Commercial/Industrial</p> <p>GRV Airport/Strategic Industry</p> <p>GRV Transient Workforce Accommodation</p> <p>UV Strategic Industry</p> <p>UV Mining/Other</p> <p>Therefore, their overall contribution is broader than what is reflected in the Mining/Other (UV) category alone.</p>

Feedback Submissions – Differential Rates Advertising – 01 May 2026 – 27 May 2026

Submission	Response
<p>According to the associated report issued by the City contribution from mining tenements is less than 5%, request was made to the CEO to provide a more specific breakdown of those categories then?</p>	<p>Hi, thank you for your comment. For clarification, resource-related contributions are spread across multiple categories in the rates model. This is because resource companies often have a presence across operational facilities, accommodation villages, airport-related infrastructure, and/or strategic industrial land holdings. This includes:</p> <p>GRV Commercial/Industrial</p> <p>GRV Airport/Strategic Industry</p> <p>GRV Transient Workforce Accommodation</p> <p>UV Strategic Industry</p> <p>UV Mining/Other</p> <p>Therefore, their overall contribution is broader than what is reflected in the Mining/Other (UV) category alone.</p>
<p>How bout you actually do your jobs and sort out the weeds in Dampier along all the footpaths and gullies that are overgrown and clean them all out after all our rates are ment to be spent in maintenance around the place all I see the City of Karratha do is wash a few bbq and mow 2 ovals how is that worth nearly \$4000 a year in rates stop holding your hands out and start working for your community.</p>	<p>Hi, the City is currently working through a process to gain Aboriginal cultural heritage direction for the development of an operational works plan to manage drains and other culturally significant areas in Dampier. Many of these areas are partly or fully located within drains, road verges, and other public spaces that the City is responsible for maintaining. Approval for this operational works plan is currently in progress.</p> <p>Additionally, rates collected from property owners help fund a wide range of essential services across the City. This includes waste collection, road maintenance, parks and open spaces, libraries, community facilities, and broader infrastructure that supports the whole community.</p>

Feedback Submissions – Differential Rates Advertising – 01 May 2026 – 27 May 2026

Submission	Response
<p>The City has cut the services of green waste collection due to "cyclone priorities", many of said trees are either still uprooted or trees have been damaged to the point that they won't ever recover, weeds are overgrown and are already at the flowering/seeding stage which means the minor works that were done was just a waste of time, chemicals were sprayed on high windy days even though that causes chemical drift which is a massive issue to sprayers and pedestrians alike, trolleys still linger about and now the ratepayers have to report to a website that demands your personal information, bins seem to be missing constantly (which some reason we the ratepayers would have to chase up?) I couldn't even get the city to respond to a security alarm that was blaring over the weekend due to the fact it was Easter Weekend for "reasons", then the city just decided that random dingoes are better of being destroyed because for some reason we can't educate the public on awareness for adults and children alike which would lead to prevention to possible attacks.</p> <p>That's just the tip of the iceberg. Commenters here have said more that I agree with, so I won't waste time repeating that.</p> <p>So now we're expected to pay more rates for less?</p> <p>I would also like to know where you got your figure of \$1.80 per week because I know for a fact that it would definitely be far more than that for our household.</p>	<p>Hi, thanks for your comment. The \$1.80 per week figure is an average impact across all residential properties based on the proposed 2026/27 rates model.</p> <p>As a component of rates are based on individual property valuations which are set independently by the WA Government's Landgate, the final change will vary from household to household. This means some properties will see an increase above the average, while others may be lower, depending on their valuation and applicable rates category.</p>
<p>Why are we adding to the burden of our community? When the cost of living is escalating out of control. How about better fiscal management and applying some lean management to you organisation.</p>	<p>Hi, we understand cost of living pressures are a real concern for the community, and this has been carefully considered in developing the proposed rates model. Each year, the City reviews its budget, services, and all available revenue sources, including investments, to minimise the impact on ratepayers while still delivering essential services. Rates fund a wide range of infrastructure and community services, including roads, waste collection, parks, community facilities and libraries that benefit the whole community. The City also continues to look for alternative revenue sources to reduce reliance on rates wherever possible.</p>
<p>Can I just point out, the Town of Port Hedland is needing to raise \$92 million via their rates and they're proposing an increase of 0% to residential. Why don't we follow a similar approach?</p>	<p>*updated* This comment contained an error. is correct and Port Hedland has exempted the residential category from the 5% rates increase. Sincere apologies, to! that was my error. (Original statement - hi, Port Hedland is proposing a 5% increase across all rating categories. Virginia Miltrup)</p>

Feedback Submissions – Differential Rates Advertising – 01 May 2026 – 27 May 2026

Submission	Response
Comparing us to Perth is a ridiculous comparison, you need to compare us to regions that closely match what our region offers.	Statement
<p>Why slog the local tax payers</p> <p>Go after the mining companies</p> <p>They not paying local council land tax or rates for all the land they use</p> <p>They don't even pay for water and use</p>	Statement
<p>The CEO made this very clear at last months meeting. While administration make the recommendations, it is absolutely the councillors final say if this moves forward. Don't forget last month the City spent your ratepayer money to fly to Perth for a weekend, to discuss the rates increase. Estimate 30K Cost of living, fuel crisis and impossible housing availability, and yet a holiday to Perth is a priority spend? 24 million committed to new housing development, 56 million on units that will rent for \$1000 per week, 3 million over budget on wages in last financial year and 1 million the year before. \$30,000 on a Covid community survey that resulted in nothing are just some of the crazy expenses. Yet still the City seems determined to drive forward in its growth and spend.</p> <p>Sometimes it's ok to bring out the red pen and just consolidate. Ratepayers please send in a submission, there is no justification for higher rates when better financial responsibility can be achieved.</p>	<p>A couple of responses to your concerns about organisational efficiency. The residential rates is being pitched at 4%, against the annual Regional Price Index for Karratha of 15.2% and against a zero% residential increase last year. Council asked us to model residential scenarios from 0% through to 10% and landed on asking the CEO to get community feedback on the 4% option. If Residential rates were reverted to 0% then we would need to cut our budget by \$779,769. To compare efficiency to other Cities look at the ratio of rates collected as a % of total revenue - this shows the low reliance Karratha has on residential rates to run its business. Port Hedland is a good benchmark as they also carry the 'Pilbara tax'. Yes, we are carrying more staff and you will see employment costs rising - that is being carefully managed. Some of those roles are funded by grants (so you need to offset), some are project related (including internal efficiency projects) and will drop away when project is complete, some are bringing services inhouse after being outsourced (so you need to offset), some are related to delivery of the Council Plan and some are related to additional functions driven by new legislation. Employment costs also incorporate additional expenditure in staff costs like training and employee housing and most Pilbara employers will understand those challenges. I would caution that as we had a zero% residential rate increase last year and the City continues to absorb larger increases to materials and services to maintain service levels. We can start to reduce service levels or defer/turn off projects if that is the community's preference. [Finally, a quick comment about the \$30K holiday comment. There wasn't much 'holidaying'. - We had a solid 2 day program for Council of site visits, development, external advisors, and strategic planning and this could not have been delivered in Karratha. From my opinion as the CEO, these strategy sessions are needed for a Board of Directors for a \$200M business]. I hope these comments help, and as always I'm happy to discuss further.</p>

Feedback Submissions – Differential Rates Advertising – 01 May 2026 – 27 May 2026

Submission	Response
<p>This feels like an easy way out for the city. Presenting rate payers with a proposal that the average person would find confusing to navigate is designed to reduce engagement with the feedback process.</p> <p>We are already overwhelmed with strata fees, home insurances, rates, utility bills, and the additional current burdens of increased fuel and food costs. If you want the average home owner in Karratha to be those who live and work locally, these moves are unhelpful. It promotes corporate ownership by investors who hold properties for mining companies or businesses that can write rent off as a tax deduction. This promotes a FIFO dominated population. The City knows this detracts from community outcomes - so why do you keep looking to us, the average local home owner, to make up shortfalls? Especially when we can't even get a replacement wheelie bin factored into our thousands of dollars a year</p> <p>P.S. - your 'Submit' button on the 'Provide Feedback' link isn't working</p>	<p>Hi, please drop me a DM about your wheelie bin problem so I can get it sorted for you. If you have additional info about when you made the request I'd appreciate it. Concerning the proposal, we are required by law to advertised the "objects and reasons" in this format and I apologise if it is confusing. We try to provide additional information to make it more understandable. I have checked the 'submit' button and it is working for me - you can email your feedback directly to enquiries@karratha.wa.gov.au. We'd really love your direct feedback for Council to consider.</p>
<p>Living in the Pilbara should be free of the scourge of any local government taxes, the wealth generated by this region should have the best of everything and incentives for people to build quality homes and stay.</p>	<p>Statement</p>
<p>Woodside ,rio ,salt will help your 4% , we are already pushed to the limits , we dont have the billions the golbal corporations do ,im sure they wont mind shelling out the \$ 1.80 increase for the people that support them yr round other wise you could just take it out of the royalites fund where ever that is ,oh thats right were not the netherlands ffs</p>	<p>Statement</p>
<p>I think you need to reevaluate your proposal.</p>	<p>Statement</p>
<p>Of course it wouldnt be working because no matter how you look at it the government are out to make money for themselves live a better higher lifestyle than others and take as much money of you as they can and do what they like.</p> <p>Your say falls on deaf hears everywhere .</p>	<p>Statement</p>
<p>Why do you keep penalising the people who have spent the money and purchased homes to keep their families in karratha. The cost of living everywhere is bad but up here is even worse, interest rates will go up a few more times plus power and fuel prices. We already pay \$4000 per year which is double we paid on a bigger block and bigger house elsewhere in WA, it's ridiculous but I also agree you can't compare the Pilbara to Perth or south coast towns. Hedland ist raising residential!! The services we get are not increasing for the money we spend, how about trying to keep people in our town and stop increasing the costs to be here, we are not responsible for the shortfalls the city need, give us a break! Feedback done through the form!</p>	<p>Statement</p>

Feedback Submissions – Differential Rates Advertising – 01 May 2026 – 27 May 2026

Submission	Response
I think you need better financial management and that should listen to what the community wants before spending \$\$\$, \$56 million on apartments when you received so much negative feedback and emails against it, and now ratepayers are the ones helping the developer with low cost finance by covering the 0.16% shortfall	Statement
Hit company houses only Rio, Salt, Woodside they can afford it.	Statement
City of Karratha as long as you are going to increase the rates, you are never going to get a positive response how about for once, you decrease the rates.... how's that for size ! You'll promise the world, and give us zilch.....	Statement
Mundaring council work out their budget first then work out what rates will be for that year. Good to see Karratha is asking ratepayers	Statement
Not everyone works in mining, how about the store and cafe workers how can they pay 1000 a week for rent, food and fuel? Lower rates for people that live in their own homes. Our strata rates keep going up and we have to work even though we are past retirement age because we can't afford to retire here	Statement
I decline any rate increase. For many reasons above and more. Thanks for asking.	Statement
They gotta pay for all their serious breaches in health & safety lol what happened to the COK ute that a worker ran over with the front end loader? Or the forklift that hurriedly had all its safety features put back on it when worksafe started poking around? Old mate sticks his hand in the lawnmower hole with a clearly labelled "do not put hands" , loses his thumb & still keeps his job - still on the lawnmower funnily enough! What about the time & her lap dogs got caught on live stream abusing & bad mouthing one of her fellow city employees? COK need cash to ensure they can last in a court battle against all the dodgy shit they do.	Statement
So an increase in rates for mining boom times. When was the last decrease when the boom stops ? You push up rates because of your lack of planning and foresight. Housing availability should be considered before you approve these massive projects. Rio, Woodside and the fertilizer plants have massive projects on at the same time. People can't find a place to rent ? Then you come up with high density low quality housing with no yards or parking?? Open up the Jump up on the Burrup and make one good decision so people can enjoy themselves.	Statement
KARRATHA PLEASE CAN I COME AND STAY THERE from South Africa	Statement
LoI maybe start giving people who live here back thier royalties instead of talking about how to manage taking	Statement

Feedback Submissions – Differential Rates Advertising – 01 May 2026 – 27 May 2026

Submission	Response
How about you don't increase the rates. Get your own spending under control before you start slugging people with rate increases.	Statement
They created many unnecessary/ double up roles with huge salary packages within the council yet they are unable to deliver the weeds removal across suburbs of Karratha footpath yet we will endure the increase of council rates that is ridiculous. These councillors don't deliver the promise when they were campaigning.	Statement
People living in their homes shouldn't have their rates calculated on GRV	Statement
And all Landgate does today is sit beside a desk and look at Google Maps, so how can this be a fair and just way of rating a property. It's all about the state and local Government lining their pockets.	Statement
exactly the only rate increase should go to the people with investment properties. I'd love to know how they calculate this so called grv as I'm in a 3x1 surrounded by 4x2 and pay pretty much the same as them . City of Karratha how is it calculated?	Statement
Can you please re-evaluate this proposal now you've shown that port Hedland isn't increasing their rates for residential. Can you also see a way that mining companies can contribute more so it's not all from the everyday people.	Statement
Grubs	Statement
nicey worded to the exuberant amount already paid . The COK is just a coffer box adding more inflation on top of inflation ... screwing the working class as per usual.	Statement
No, but I do wonder if our rate increase this year will include a cyclone levy ?	Hi, our rates do not include a separate "cyclone levy." This would be covered under the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) charges are a State Government initiative and are collected by local governments on behalf of the State. The ESL is separate to City rates and helps fund emergency services across Western Australia. As part of its normal operations, the City also conducts pre-cyclone clean-up activities ahead of cyclone season, as well as recovery works following cyclone events.
Can i ask what percentage of CoK staff actually pay rates here? What are we getting for the increase?	Hi, rates help fund the delivery and maintenance of essential local infrastructure, facilities and services used across the district, including waste collection, roads, parks, libraries, and community facilities that benefit the whole community. An increase will help the City continue to deliver these local services, given the rising operational costs.
Is there a list of different rates for different areas/ towns we can see	Hi, each City/Shire will have its rates freely available on its website for viewing

Feedback Submissions – Differential Rates Advertising – 01 May 2026 – 27 May 2026

Submission	Response
Grubs! Tax the gas companies! Also You guys make enough off landing fees at the airport leave the working class alone.	Statement
So like previous years when the GRV went down the rates didn't	Statement
It would be fine if the Grv wasn't hyper inflated but as it is 1.80 a week increase isn't going to be close to what it is.	Statement
Where was the waste collection after the last 2 cyclones seems you charge more for less services roads are shocking around town	Statement
So looks like 63million is needed for next year to look after Community Infrastructure after reading through the supplied explanation. It lists where the money is going but doesn't have the values next to each item or the full breakdown of how these values have been calculated. 63million for maintaining buildings and parks in Karratha I would need to see figures to justify bloody hell. Was there any funds left over from last year ?? Need to stop spending just because its there. We need to control the bank account and council has to apply for funds with a detailed breakdown and justification.	Statement
More money for another 400 trees to be planted...then another 300k contract each year for someone to water them #taxgas	Statement
Don't remember the rates going down when GRV dropped 50%	Statement
Cok have fuked this place	Statement
City of Karratha every time I open up one of these I find it so hard and thrn actually know what to provide feedback on. Is there somewhere that actually says what the previous rates models have been? Or feedback about certain projects and the cost these are impacting our rates? I feel like the only real feedback I can logon and give is that obviously I don't want to pay mopre rates- which isn't constructive or informed at all.	Statement
can you please confirm its an ordinary meeting being held on the 2nd of June? Your online meeting list does not stipulate any meetings on the 2nd.	Hi, confirming the meeting on 2 June 2026 is a Special Council Meeting. The post has now been updated to reflect this. Thank you for picking this up.

Feedback Submissions – Differential Rates Advertising – 01 May 2026 – 27 May 2026

PASTORAL CATEGORY - Submissions from Facebook – Post dated 14 May 2026

Submission	Response
so what do you do for pastrol to justify a increase by 6%	<p>Hi, rates help assist a wide range of infrastructure, services and regional initiatives that support the overall liveability, accessibility and economic sustainability of the region. While pastoral properties may not utilise every service in the same way as residential residents, the City continues to provide benefits to rural and pastoral ratepayers through activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Maintenance and advocacy for regional road networks and transport connectivity- Emergency management coordination, including bushfire preparedness and recovery support- Environmental health and biosecurity initiatives- Regional planning, economic development, and advocacy to State and Federal Governments- Community safety, ranger services, and regulatory functions across the district- Investment in regional infrastructure and services that support workforce attraction, tourism, and economic resilience <p>The proposed rate increases across all categories were carefully considered to balance cost of living pressures with the City's responsibility to continue delivering essential services, maintaining infrastructure, and advocating for the region's future needs.</p>

RESIDENTIAL CATEGORY – Emailed letter received 26 May 2026

Submission	Response
<p>City of Karratha Welcome Road Karratha WA 6714 Tuesday 26th May 2026 To the Chief Executive Officer and Elected Members, RE: Submission Opposing Any Rate Increase Under the 2026/2027 Differential Rates Model</p> <p>I write as a concerned ratepayer strongly opposed to any increase in rates for the 2026/2027 financial year.</p> <p>At a time when residents across the Pilbara and wider Australia are experiencing significant cost-of-living pressures, the City of Karratha should be prioritising financial restraint, operational efficiency, and affordability for its residents rather than increasing the burden on households and local businesses.</p> <p>A nearby and directly comparable regional local government, the Town of Port Hedland, has publicly advertised a 0% increase for residential rates in 2026/2027. The Town stated that it intends to maintain services and infrastructure programs without increasing residential rates.</p> <p>If Port Hedland can identify a pathway to maintain a 0% residential increase while still operating a major Pilbara regional centre, then the City of Karratha should also be capable of doing the same.</p> <p>The CEO of the City of Karratha publicly indicated via social media that approximately \$800,000 would need to be found within the budget to avoid a rate increase. This is neither an impossible nor unreasonable figure within the scale of the City's overall operations.</p> <p>A practical solution would be to direct each of the City's five directorates to identify approximately \$150,000–\$160,000 in savings within their respective operational budgets. That is precisely the role of executive management and departmental leadership — to manage resources responsibly, prioritise essential services, and find efficiencies when economic conditions require restraint.</p> <p>Instead, the City appears unwilling to critically review discretionary spending, project timing, and internal operational efficiencies before seeking additional revenue from already stretched ratepayers.</p>	<p>Thank you for your letter and for the detailed information you have provided regarding asset renewals and operating costs at the City of Karratha. I appreciate the time and effort you have taken to raise your concerns in a constructive and considered manner.</p> <p>While Port Hedland is geographically close to Karratha, its rating structure is materially different. For 2025/26, the Town of Port Hedland has a single category, UV Mining, which contributes \$65,400,331 to its total rates yield of \$88,547,940. This means the Town has relatively low reliance on its GRV residential category because of the substantial revenue generated from UV Mining. By comparison, in the same year the City of Karratha has a total rates yield of \$66,472,046 across a larger number of properties, with the equivalent UV Strategic Industry category contributing \$22,954,767. This results in the Town of Port Hedland having approximately \$22 million more in rates revenue available to meet its operational costs.</p> <p>In relation to operational efficiency, the budget has already been critically reviewed and reduced where appropriate as part of the local government budget process. We also note that Karratha's ratio of operating expenditure to revenue is 9% more efficient than Port Hedland.</p> <p>The City is currently operating in an environment of significant growth and increasing complexity due to increasing community expectations and requests. This includes expanding industrial activity and infrastructure investment, growth in assets under management, increased statutory obligations and a substantial pipeline of strategic and externally funded projects.</p> <p>In addition, Council has supported targeted investment in areas that had historically been under-resourced, including governance and compliance, procurement oversight, workplace health and safety, technology systems, strategic planning, and project delivery capability.</p>

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<p>The community has repeatedly been told that the City values transparency and engagement and a public town hall or ratepayer meeting could be held regarding the proposed differential rates model. To date, no such meeting has occurred. Genuine consultation requires more than online notices or limited engagement processes. Ratepayers deserve the opportunity to openly question, challenge, and understand the rationale behind proposed increases before decisions are finalised.</p> <p>The City also needs to acknowledge community concerns regarding fiscal responsibility and organisational performance. According to the City's own annual survey data, financial management has consistently ranked among the poorest performing across a 10-year period. Residents continue to raise concerns regarding value for money, prioritisation of projects, and overall governance outcomes.</p> <p>In this environment, it is difficult to justify additional rate increases when the community is not seeing corresponding improvements in performance, confidence in decision-making or meeting basic operational service levels.</p> <p>There are also clear examples where expenditure appears excessive or poorly timed. One recent example is the reported expenditure of approximately \$650,000 on the replacement of two parks (KLP and Egret/ Brolga Park) that were originally budgeted at approximately \$170,000 (10 Year playground strategy). The City website states parks are replaced at "end of life," yet the Leisureplex Park is still under warranty for a further two years. Projects such as these create a perception that the City is continuing with discretionary upgrades and expansionary spending at the wrong time.</p> <p>The City should instead focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining core services; • Delaying or staging non-essential capital projects; • Reviewing procurement and contractor costs; • Reducing internal operational expenditure; • Freezing discretionary spending where appropriate; and • Improving efficiency before imposing additional financial burdens on residents. <p>Importantly, affordability is directly linked to population retention and economic sustainability in regional towns such as Karratha. One of the major challenges facing regional communities is attracting and retaining families, skilled workers, and long-term residents.</p> <p>Council has an opportunity to support this objective by demonstrating restraint and delivering cost-of-living relief where possible. A 0% rate increase would send a strong</p>	<p>Importantly, these investments are beginning to deliver measurable outcomes. The City has experienced reduced staff turnover, fewer lost time injuries, improved organisational stability, strong success in securing external funding, and positive movement in community sentiment indicators.</p> <p>These changes have been delivered while maintaining a restrained approach to rates, with a 0% increase in 2025/26 followed by a 4% increase in 2026/27. This equates to an average increase of approximately 2% per annum over the last 2 years during a period of significant inflationary pressure across regional Western Australia. This is less than what was modelled into the Long Term Financial Plan for 2026/27 of 4.1%, over time compounding the lower rates yield into an impact on project delivery or a catch up increase to smooth the yield.</p> <p>Council has also adopted ambitious objectives through the Council Plan 2025–2035 and the Community Infrastructure Plan 2025–2035, reflecting the priorities identified by the community, including accelerating the delivery of major community projects and preparing the organisation for future growth and asset transfers.</p> <p>Council and administration remain committed to ensuring that investment in organisational capability translates into improved service delivery, stronger compliance, accelerated infrastructure delivery, and long-term community benefit.</p> <p>Thank you again for your correspondence and your ongoing interest in the future of Karratha and the broader community.</p>
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message that the City understands the financial pressures residents are facing and is prepared to share in that responsibility.
Increasing rates while continuing ambitious work programs and non-essential spending risks driving further dissatisfaction and undermining efforts to encourage people to live, work, and invest in the region long term.

I respectfully request that Council:

1. Reject any proposed increase to residential rates for 2026/2027;
2. Undertake an internal operational savings review across all directorates;
3. Delay or reduce non-essential capital expenditure;
4. Improve transparency and public consultation processes; and
5. Prioritise affordability and resident retention during the current cost-of-living crisis.

Ratepayers should not be expected to fund continued growth and discretionary spending when more disciplined financial management options remain available.

Yours faithfully,

Pegs Creek Ratepayer – City of Karratha

Feedback Submissions – Differential Rates Advertising – 01 May 2026 – 27 May 2026

RESIDENTIAL CATEGORY – Submissions received via What We Make It Page – 01-27 May 2026

Submission	Response
<p>As a rate payer this is ridiculous! Port Hedland have managed the same but not added it to home owners rates. We are paying through the roof and barely getting services done around town. It might be time to look at other budgets and where you can cut back. We don't need ten of thousands spent on roundabouts or paying vendors for youth week thousands of dollars to paint a basketball.</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>
<p>Fair for what we get</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>
<p>The Rating Strategy refers to “ongoing investment in other investments to generate alternative revenue streams”, however no detail is provided. For ratepayers to assess whether higher differential rates are justified, it would be helpful for Council to clarify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What investments this refers to (e.g. property, financial instruments, joint ventures). - What property or commercial assets Council currently owns as investments (distinct from community infrastructure). - What returns these investments have generated historically and what return benchmarks apply. - What due-diligence, independent valuation, and risk-assessment processes are applied before committing ratepayer funds to such investments. - How Council ensures these investments add net value and do not create a future burden on ratepayers through holding costs or under-performance. <p>The Rating Strategy refers to Council reviewing all revenue sources, however no breakdown of non-rate income is provided. To improve transparency, Council could clarify:</p> <p>The proportion of total operating revenue derived from rates versus other sources (fees and charges, grants, rental income, investment returns, developer contributions).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How material grant funding is in the 2026/27 budget and what services or capital works it supports. - How has non-rate revenue has trended over the past 5 years, and how has this compared to what was forecast for each applicable year. - Whether non-rate revenue is expected to grow or decline over the forward estimates, 	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>

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<p>and how this affects future rating decisions.</p> <p>The Strategy lists significant capital and renewal expenditure, however funding sources are not consistently identified. To assist ratepayers' understanding, Council could clarify: Which capital works are funded directly from annual rate revenue versus from reserves, grants, or accumulated surpluses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What reserves exist beyond the Aerodrome Reserve, their purpose, current balances, and target levels. - How and when Council decides to fund infrastructure from reserves rather than increasing rates. - How long-term assets such as roads are financially managed across their lifecycle to avoid inter-generational rate impacts. <p>The Objects and Reasons document adequately explains how differential rates are applied, but it does not provide sufficient transparency on the other side of the ledger — namely Council investments, non-rate income, reserves, and capital funding decisions. Without this information, ratepayers cannot properly assess whether increased differential rates are being offset by prudent investment, effective use of surplus funds, or alternative revenue streams.</p> <p>Given the City's regional significance and exposure to State-funded infrastructure programs, it is reasonable to expect that State and Federal funding plays a material role in reducing pressure on rates.</p> <p>Can you please clarify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What proportion of eligible State and Federal funding opportunities are actively pursued by the City; - What funding opportunities were not pursued in recent years, and the reasons for this; - Whether Council maintains a forward grant acquisition strategy aligned to its capital works program; and - How successful grant funding outcomes are factored into determining the required rates yield. 	
<p>Can the City please consider another differential rate category for "Big Company" owned houses? They can afford the rate hike, the rest of us poor lot cannot!</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>
<p>Why does the City keep approving more and more fast-food outlets (Zambrero's, a second Subway)? With a 4% rate increase, many rate payers can't afford more fast foods.</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>

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Approving the likes of an Aldi, Spud Shed, Chemist Warehouse etc. would be a more worthy cause so that struggling homeowners can make savings in order to make ends meet.	
A quote from your projects page about the proposed Quarter Hotel Development: "With market conditions stabilising and strong demand for quality accommodation continuing, the City is now retesting the market through a formal Expression of Interest process." - I don't believe market conditions are stabilising, do you? A rhetorical question..... Is this still being considered in light of the harsh cost of living for residents? Perhaps you should change that description. Don't think this is a priority right now. Keep the rates down please!	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.
Has the City factored the current global economic crisis into their LTFP? Building and Transport costs are soaring, making it very difficult for people to get ahead and reach their goals, to have a home for their family. Surely the reserve funds earmarked for various projects now need to be re-evaluated to provide support for the rate payer. A 4% hike with 3 interest rate hikes this year is not financially feasible for many rate payers.	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.
A 4% rate hike amidst an inflation storm and 3 interest rate hikes this year. Yes, the interest rate hikes are designed to curb inflation, but as we all know, this takes 6-18 months to flow through and see an effect on inflation. Many homeowners are really struggling. Is an international airport really a priority given the economic climate? How about the City review their reserve policies and make some of the substantial cash in term deposits available to help keep rates down during what is an economic crisis, instead of the nice to have's?	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.
Looking back to the submissions last year, and in particular the City's response to the submission about the amount of money in term deposits, the City plausibly highlighted that the majority was ring fenced in reserves for particular purposes, quoting examples of where that money would be spent. Karratha Airport, REAP, Leisureplex. However, as at 30 June last year, term deposits amounted to \$124m, and at 28 Feb this year have grown to \$134m. So, these reserves appear to simply keep growing instead of being spent. But that's not really the point I want to make, it's the use of these funds that opens a bigger discussion. What is really being done to support cost of living pressure for the frontline workers: the supermarket and shop workers, the labourers, the cleaners, the restaurant workers, the small business owners.....I could go on. Those who are breaking their backs to try to afford owning a house and are not employed by all the big hitters in town bathing in rivers of cash. Let's look at last year's response as to where the money will be spent:	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.

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<p>Karratha Airport – many of these people can't afford to fly. International airport status.....how does that support the workers on the front line working all hours to scrape enough together when they can hardly afford to use the airport, let alone fly overseas. Again, only benefits the wealthy.</p> <p>REAP – many of these workers can't afford to use the facility, not just down to money, but all the overtime they work to barely afford what they have.</p> <p>Leisureplex – again, same story as REAP</p> <p>The City would not function without these people, and it seems to me the City spending is all geared up for the benefit of the wealthy, employed by the giants who make Karratha a comfortable and easily affordable lifestyle for them.</p> <p>Have you considered how these people have struggled to get themselves on the housing market only to be tarred with the same brush as the big boys and have 4% slapped onto their rates?</p> <p>For those who don't fully understand the mechanics of rate setting, last year looked as if the City really helped the rate payers from a % perspective (which I concede they did in part), however, many rate payers rates went up from a dollar perspective. Yes the 3 yearly GRV valuations throw a spanner in there, but some still suffered.</p> <p>Has the City considered reviewing the reserves and their purposes given the current economic crisis to provide some support that these people will ultimately actually feel and benefit from?</p> <p>What's the strategy? What's the plan to ensure these people, without whom the City falls on its face, are looked after instead of expanding the playground for the wealthy and comfortable?</p> <p>Quite simply, you can see how this segment of rate payers are funding facilities that only the privileged and entitled are able to use.</p> <p>A proper response would be appreciated, not just a fact sheet put up on the site.</p> <p>Thanks</p>	
As a small business owner who has to house our staff we can not afford a rate rise. The amount of financial pressure is already significant	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.
No rate increase	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.
we request 0 rate increase for resident and make more green waster collection through out the year	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.
CBD public toilets are 100% not necessary. The ongoing maintenance will be neglected and become a health hazard to enter within 6 months, just like every other public toilet in	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.

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<p>Karratha.</p> <p>A large portion of residents of Karratha live in their own homes, why is the rates based on their rental value? We're not renting our house out just to be able to afford to pay our rates. Funny that the rates didn't drop when the rental value did.</p> <p>CoK is more focused on the gentrification of the town, rather than focusing on what actually makes the town liveable (such as affordability).</p>	
<p>Strongly opposed- i dont know how the local government expect those that dont work in mining to be able to afford any more increases in this town. Its complete unsustainable and reducing the liveability of the city already. The fact that a local gardener is paid more than a level 3 highly qualified teacher is illogical. I think the COK needs to review their internal salary schemes and take some financial responsibility on its funding of things.</p> <p>There needs to be a circuit breaker. Ive overheard companies say they are going to put in a tender of a ridiculous amount as they know there is no other option for things like footpath development and they know the city will pay it! When you reverse the why behind this, maybe as why there is no "competition" of local businesses. Its so hard to run businesses in this town, there is zero support, and to house and retain staff with the cost of living is unachievable.</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>
<p>Leave as is due to cost of living crisis like Port Hedland is.</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>
<p>Why are we adding to the burden of our community? When the cost of living is escalating out of control. How about better fiscal management and applying some lean management to your organisation.</p> <p>Additionally , not every house is a rental so why should a owner occupier pay rates based on rental value? Especially as there is a housing shortage , which is driving rent upwards.</p> <p>No increase , find efficiency internally</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>
<p>No to increase</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>
<p>No rate rise!! Not everyone in town has the means to keep up with these increases, cost of living alone should be reason enough for a reprieve.</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>
<p>No uplift will be fine Thankyou.</p> <p>Or camping at 40mile and Cleaverville should be free for rate paying citizens</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>
<p>The last thing the community needs now is higher council rates.</p> <p>I vote no to higher rates</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>

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<p>I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed Differential Rates Model for the 2026/27 financial year.</p> <p>As a single-income homeowner, I am already experiencing significant financial pressure due to the rising cost of living, including increases in insurance, electricity, fuel, and groceries. My current council rates are approximately \$3,300 per year, and a further 4% increase will add to an already substantial and difficult-to-manage expense.</p> <p>Unlike households supported by higher dual incomes or those benefiting from the mining sector, many residents like myself are managing on a single income without access to those financial advantages. This proposed increase does not appear to take into account the growing number of ratepayers who are in similar circumstances.</p> <p>While I understand the need for councils to generate revenue to maintain services, I am concerned that this model places a disproportionate burden on ordinary homeowners who are already under financial strain. Incremental increases, even when they appear modest, have a cumulative impact that is becoming unsustainable.</p> <p>I would urge the council to consider alternative approaches, such as limiting increases for single-income households, introducing caps, or phasing in changes more gradually to reduce financial stress on residents.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my feedback.</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>
<p>Residential rates should not go up, they are already costly enough for our region. Home owners have enough bills to cover as it is, and the yearly rates are already expensive.</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>
<p>Residential rates should not be increased! same as port hedland</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>
<p>Increases across all areas are expected and necessary to keep growing. Thus is especially needed if the local community want to continue seeing all the things they want and the City are working towards.</p> <p>Given what the increase could be i believe its positive however there maybe be potentially to see if it could be reduced further given the cost of living and current world climate which holds uncertainty for the future</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>
<p>No rate rise for residential properties.</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>

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People of CoK are already stretched thin financially and now you want to slog us with a rate hike. We pay a ridiculous amount in rates for what we get. I think the community would appreciate and respect the council more if they proposed what Port Hedland are.	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.
As a current rate payer who has been in town for nearly 20 years, I am literally living pay check to pay check. I earn nearly \$300,000 a year (before tax) and struggling to survive. With the cost of food, fuel, interest rates all increasing we as a family are struggling. As it was, even last year I had to pay my rates in installments. I can't afford any more increases. So please go and see Woodside, Rio and all the other large projects in town and make them pay their fair share and give us a break. If you believe they will pack up and take their business elsewhere then the council are dumber than we think.	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.
I do not support an increase in rates rising for many reasons.	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.
why with a living crisis are the council looking to put more pressure on residents who are struggling enough. Put costs up for the big companies and corporations hold them accountable instead of the little person/ working class always brunting all the costs!	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.
It's already too high for homeowners, and many of us are really struggling. Why are rates being increased again, especially when they weren't reduced during times when rents dropped? It's disappointing to see this happening, particularly when our rates are already higher than many other areas across WA. This is placing real pressure on households who are trying to keep up.	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.
Maybe the fat cats in high places who can actually afford this increase can take a pay cut instead so as too front the costs? COK had to many Chiefs & not enough Indians - get rid of the ceo & the directors - do fuck all to help this city, only hinder it & it's hard working people.	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.
With the raise of living expenses in the Pilbara I don't think it's advisable to increase the rates, we loving living in this area but if prices keep rising we will be looking to move on, we just can't keep up with all the increases . We aren't one of the so called lucky ones that work for companies that hep pay water, power and even mortgage. Think of us little people in the community!	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.
I am writing to formally object to the proposed differential rates strategy. As both a homeowner and small business operator, in Karratha, I am directly impacted	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.

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across multiple categories. While I understand the intent of creating a fairer distribution of rates, I believe the current proposal places an increasing burden on everyday residents and small business owners, rather than addressing the broader economic imbalance within the region.

A key concern is the flow-on effect of rate increases applied to certain sectors, particularly those connected to mining and workforce accommodation. Historically, increased costs in these sectors are not absorbed but instead passed on — resulting in inflated rents and higher costs of living across the community. This disproportionately affects local residents who are not operating at mining-level income, including families, essential workers, and small business owners.

I am acutely aware of the pressures facing tenants in Karratha. Any increase in holding costs — including council rates — contributes to upward pressure on rent, whether directly or indirectly. At a time when housing affordability is already a significant concern in the Pilbara, this strategy risks further exacerbating the issue.

From a small business perspective, additional cost burdens reduce capacity for growth, staffing, and service delivery. Unlike large corporations, small local businesses do not have the same ability to absorb or offset increased operating costs. This ultimately impacts the broader community through reduced services, higher prices, or both.

While the strategy appears to target higher-revenue sectors, in practice these costs cascade through the local economy and are ultimately borne by everyday residents.

I urge the Council to reconsider the structure and impact of this proposal, with particular attention to:

The downstream impact on rental affordability

The cumulative burden on individuals holding multiple roles within the community (homeowner, landlord, business operator)

The lack of insulation for local residents from cost pass-through by large industries

A more balanced approach is needed — one that ensures large-scale operators contribute

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<p>fairly without creating unintended consequences for the wider community.</p> <p>Fairness, as port Hedland are not raising their rates for residential home, this would be a great start in supporting the people of karratha.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.</p>	
<p>I am writing as a homeowner to object to the proposed rates increase for 2026/27.</p> <p>While I understand the need for Council to fund services and infrastructure, a rate increase of around 4% places additional strain on households already dealing with rising living costs. This level of increase does not appear to be adequately justified.</p> <p>The proposal refers to efficiency measures, however no clear evidence or quantified savings have been provided to demonstrate that costs have been sufficiently controlled before increasing the burden on ratepayers.</p> <p>I am also concerned that increases across commercial and other sectors will flow through to residents via higher prices, compounding the overall financial impact on the community.</p> <p>I request that Council reconsider the scale of the increase and place greater emphasis on cost control, transparency, and minimising the impact on residents.</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>
<p>Your wanting karratha to be a town that people stay in and live long term with their families, stop penalising us and increasing the rates. The tow of port Hedland is not increasing residential!!! We should not be compared to Perth as the house prices are not relative. The cost of living is already high, interest rates are going to go up, fuel prices are up, people will leave town if you keep penalising us. We already pay \$4000 per year in rates which is double what we were paying in another WA town! Do not increase more and make life harder again for our community.</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>
<p>The City is disconnected from their community if they believe this is a good proposal.</p> <p>This is a good way to encourage this city to become a FIFO town.</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>
<p>Absolutely ridiculous instead of trying to squeeze us the rape pay is for more money. How about you spend our money wisely?</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>
<p>The CEO made this very clear at last months meeting. While administration make the recommendations, it is absolutely the councillors final say if this moves forward. As noted</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>

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<p>in a comment by another Karratha resident, perhaps it's time to take note, the region is struggling with cost of living, homelessness, unemployment, the fuel crisis, interest rates rising, and no wages increase in sight.</p> <p>The City of Karratha has been consistent year in and year out in increasing the rate costs, causing more people to struggle with their cost of living crisis. As the Karratha resident also noted last month the City spent ratepayer money to fly to Perth for a weekend, to discuss the rates increase, which was a total waste of our hard earned money, when a teams meeting would have been sufficient. Estimate 30K Cost of living, fuel crisis and impossible housing availability, and yet a holiday to Perth is a priority spend?</p> <p>24 million committed to new housing development, 56 million on units that will rent for \$1000 per week, 3 million over budget on wages in last financial year and 1 million the year before, this is disappointing and should not be the rate payers cost to top up, \$30,000 on a Covid community survey that resulted in nothing are just some of the crazy expenses.</p> <p>Yet still the City seems determined to drive forward in its growth and spend. Sometimes it's ok to bring out the red pen and just consolidate.</p> <p>I agree there is no justification for higher rates when better financial responsibility can be achieved.</p> <p>Perhaps City of Karratha needs to put itself on a budget.</p> <p>And for once listen to your community, after all it's our money that you are taking and using unwisely.</p>	
<p>Not happy. As long term state government employees in our own home we chose to live here for life style. We raised our children here. Interest rate rises, insurance increases, flight increases to stay in contact with family, food and fuel increases..... and now this. We're likely to sell up and move. You are doing nothing for local retention of essential workers. How about reduced rates for locals living in their own home? I just don't see where the money is going so that makes it even more frustrating.</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>
<p>I do not agree with yet another raise on yet another cost of living. We are getting taxed left & right just to breathe these days, then we are constantly getting slammed with increase on food, increase on fuel, increase on mortgage, increase on car rego and insurance .. the list goes on.. and on.. and on. Where does it end!? It's a joke. Not everyone one in Karratha has a big mining company shirt, most of us are the back bone of the town and the community. The humble people running your shops, cleaning your offices but we're slammed with so much it's hard to keep our heads above water. You're going to drive away all of the very people who keep your town running.</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>

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Why cant locals who own their own home pay less rates than those who have investment properties. When you live in your home your not benefiting from rent which is what the rates are based on. Let's make it fair for the locals who buy and live local! For rentals base it on exactly what each property is rented for.	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.
Expensive , lower it please	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.
This is not acceptable. Cost of living is through the roof, flights are expensive interest rates are increasing and we are being sucked dry by increasing rates even though city looks appalling with overgrown weeds and their happy go lucky attitude to shoot dingoes who are beneficial to killing feral cats since the city can't manage that.	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.
<p>A proposed model that sees an increase to residential properties should not be accepted by Council at all.</p> <p>Families are struggling with cost of living at the moment, especially with prices rises through all daily essentials.</p> <p>Additionally, service deliverability in key areas have seen a decrease in performance. I would be against seeing a rate increase especially when areas such as weed management and missed bin collections occur seemingly regularly.</p> <p>Other LGAs, such a Port Hedland, are proposing a 0% increase to residential.</p>	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.
<p>Why hammering the rate payers even more ? They won't get anything out of it. Talking about easing pressure of cost of living but taxing more. Backwards thinking to be polite.</p> <p>Why hammering the rate payers even more ? They won't get anything out of it. Talking about easing pressure of cost of living but taxing more. Backwards thinking to be polite.</p>	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.
<p>Without proper detail on what this proposed increase will deliver, I do not support the 4% rate increase.</p> <p>As a Dampier resident, I am struggling to reconcile how an increase is being proposed when core service delivery is visibly declining. Footpaths are overgrown, gullies are overrun with weeds, post-cyclone clean-up takes weeks, rubbish collection is inconsistent, and potholes—both at the boat ramp and throughout residential streets—are left unresolved. These are not discretionary services; they are the fundamentals of local government.</p>	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.

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When basic maintenance is not being delivered to a minimum standard, asking residents to pay more is not reasonable—it is indefensible.

The continued reference to constraints, including agreements with Traditional Owners, is no longer an acceptable explanation. This has been raised for over two years with no visible resolution. The role of Council is to work through constraints—not allow them to result in declining service levels while still increasing rates.

There are now clear safety concerns. Hazardous vegetation is growing along public pathways where children are walking daily. Infrastructure such as exposed reticulation is being left as trip hazards. Bins are being washed out with contaminated water flowing into public areas, including the foreshore playground. This reflects a failure to maintain even a safe baseline standard.

From a broader perspective, Dampier as a town is in a worse condition today than it was in 2021/22. When we were considering moving our family, we chose Dampier because of the visible improvements being made—it felt like a town being actively invested in. That trajectory has clearly reversed. The town now presents as run down, with increased vandalism, visible neglect, and declining upkeep of public spaces.

Residents should not be asked to fund an increase while experiencing a decrease in service.

Critically, there is no clearly articulated service improvement for Dampier within this proposal. I understand this was also the case last year. If Council is seeking to increase rates, there should be a clear, town-by-town breakdown—Dampier, Karratha, Wickham, and Roebourne—outlining exactly what each community will receive. Without this, there is no transparency and no ability for residents to properly assess value.

It is also difficult to ignore that if the City of Port Hedland can manage financial pressures without directly passing increases onto residents—despite well-known organisational and financial challenges—then the City of Karratha should be able to demonstrate why it cannot, or reconsider its approach.

Before supporting this increase, councillors should be asking:

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<p>Are we meeting minimum service standards across all towns—yes or no?</p> <p>What specific, measurable improvements will Dampier residents see from this increase?</p> <p>Why are known maintenance issues still unresolved within the current rate base?</p> <p>Where is the town-by-town breakdown of works and service improvements tied to this increase?</p> <p>How are we ensuring equity, so smaller communities like Dampier are not overlooked?</p> <p>What internal cost controls have been applied before asking residents to pay more?</p> <p>How will Council be held accountable if service levels do not improve following this increase?</p> <p>If these questions cannot be clearly answered, then the proposal is not ready to be supported.</p> <p>Without proper detail, without demonstrated improvement in core service delivery, and without transparency at a town level, this increase cannot be justified—particularly for Dampier residents.</p> <p>Without proper detail on what this increase will deliver, I do not support this proposal.</p>	
<p>Some of us, the workers who support the town that are not employed by the big corporations, can hardly afford our mortgages and insurance. You can't be serious about slugging us with 4%! Seriously, what are you doing?</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>
<p>The city of Karratha is being greedy,</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>
<p>Absolute Bullshit! You guys make up a figure for what our GRV number is even if our property has never been rented and we have lived in it since we built! We're already struggling with all other increase and you guys will increase it 4% but then you'll also go and change the GRV so will inevitably be taking more than 4%! Think about the local families!!</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>

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<p>We already pay enough as it is to live locally, all groceries, services and other expenses are through the roof, why does the council the want to sting us more? Just ask the average local family how much the weekly expenses are just to have the basic necessities? It's well above average city prices so to even compare that is frustrating.</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>
<p>To the Chief Executive Officer and Elected Members, RE: Submission Opposing Any Rate Increase Under the 2026/2027 Differential Rates Model. I write as a concerned ratepayer strongly opposed to any increase in rates for the 2026/2027 financial year. At a time when residents across the Pilbara and wider Australia are experiencing significant cost-of-living pressures, the City of Karratha should be prioritising financial restraint, operational efficiency, and affordability for its residents rather than increasing the burden on households and local businesses. A nearby and directly comparable regional local government, the Town of Port Hedland, has publicly advertised a 0% increase for residential rates in 2026/2027. The Town stated that it intends to maintain services and infrastructure programs without increasing residential rates.</p> <p>If Port Hedland can identify a pathway to maintain a 0% residential increase while still operating a major Pilbara regional centre, then the City of Karratha should also be capable of doing the same.</p> <p>The CEO of the City of Karratha publicly indicated via social media that approximately \$800,000 would need to be found within the budget to avoid a rate increase. This is neither an impossible nor unreasonable figure within the scale of the City's overall operations.</p> <p>A practical solution would be to direct each of the City's five directorates to identify approximately \$150,000–\$160,000 in savings within their respective operational budgets. That is precisely the role of executive management and departmental leadership — to manage resources responsibly, prioritise essential services, and find efficiencies when economic conditions require restraint.</p> <p>Instead, the City appears unwilling to critically review discretionary spending, project timing, and internal operational efficiencies before seeking additional revenue from already stretched ratepayers.</p> <p>The community has repeatedly been told that the City values transparency and engagement and a public town hall or ratepayer meeting could be held regarding the proposed differential rates model. To date, no such meeting has occurred. Genuine consultation requires more than online notices or limited engagement processes. Ratepayers deserve the opportunity to openly question, challenge, and understand the rationale behind proposed increases before decisions are finalised.</p> <p>The City also needs to acknowledge community concerns regarding fiscal responsibility</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>

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and organisational performance. According to the City's own annual survey data, financial management has consistently ranked among the poorest performing across a 10-year period. Residents continue to raise concerns regarding value for money, prioritisation of projects, and overall governance outcomes.

In this environment, it is difficult to justify additional rate increases when the community is not seeing corresponding improvements in performance, confidence in decision-making or meeting basic operational service levels.

There are also clear examples where expenditure appears excessive or poorly timed. One recent example is the reported expenditure of approximately \$650,000 on the replacement of two parks (KLP and Egret/ Brolga Park) that were originally budgeted at approximately \$170,000 (10 Year playground strategy). The City website states parks are replaced at "end of life," yet the Leisureplex Park is still under warranty for a further two years. Projects such as these create a perception that the City is continuing with discretionary upgrades and expansionary spending at the wrong time.

The City should instead focus on:

Maintaining core services; Delaying or staging non-essential capital projects; Reviewing procurement and contractor costs; Reducing internal operational expenditure; Freezing discretionary spending where appropriate; and Improving efficiency before imposing additional financial burdens on residents.

Importantly, affordability is directly linked to population retention and economic sustainability in regional towns such as Karratha. One of the major challenges facing regional communities is attracting and retaining families, skilled workers, and long-term residents. Council has an opportunity to support this objective by demonstrating restraint and delivering cost-of-living relief where possible. A 0% rate increase would send a strong message that the City understands the financial pressures residents are facing and is prepared to share in that responsibility.

Increasing rates while continuing ambitious work programs and non-essential spending risks driving further dissatisfaction and undermining efforts to encourage people to live, work, and invest in the region long term.

I respectfully request that Council:

Reject any proposed increase to residential rates for 2026/2027; Undertake an internal operational savings review across all directorates; Delay or reduce non-essential capital expenditure; Improve transparency and public consultation processes; and Prioritise affordability and resident retention during the current cost-of-living crisis. Ratepayers should not be expected to fund continued growth and discretionary spending when more disciplined financial management options remain available.

Feedback Submissions – Differential Rates Advertising – 01 May 2026 – 27 May 2026

<p>It seems unlikely that Council will make any changes to the differential rates proposed unless it decides to reduce the budget forecast and spread the anticipated 26/27FY costs and associated project delivery into future financial years. A quick google showed that Councils are legislatively required to go out for public comment on proposed differential rates, but to what end?</p> <p>It would be very valuable to have access to some more meaningful information such as, what's in the budget? The description above implies the budget only includes essential services "The rates enable the City to fund essential services like waste collection, roads, parks, libraries, and community facilities that benefit the whole community."</p> <p>This doesn't seem right - and the description in the FAQs (What are Council Rates) at least suggests other potentially non-essential things like programs - but there is nothing tangible provided - where are the budget figures?</p> <p>At a time of increasing cost of living and housing pressures - is our local government just budgeting for essential services? If not, please give us rate payers the full picture of what the proposed rate increase is actually covering. If we can't have a say about 'what's in the budget' and what we believe should be the priorities for 26/27 'beyond essential services', how can we provide any meaningful feedback on the proposed differential rates?</p> <p>Suggest it's about time rate payers get to have some say about what Council's priorities are for each budget cycle BEYOND ESSENTIAL SERVICES with enough time to provide feedback on budget items.</p> <p>When managing our household budget, when things get tight, we pull back on discretionary spend - I'd like to think my local government is behaving in the same responsible manner given I contribute to the collective purse. I'd really like some insight into what sits in the 'discretionary/non-essential portion' of the 26/27 budget? Right now, without this info, this 'feedback opportunity' is pretty meaningless.</p> <p>Increasing costs across the board is hurting. Residential rate payers are also mortgage payers and house insurance payers. Are you managing your budget like a local household living through a high inflationary period? Or will our increased rates contribute to the houses a lot of you live in, so maybe you're not feeling this mounting pressure in the same way? I can only wonder, as you haven't been transparent about this.</p> <p>You need to stop going through the motions when it comes to ticking the feedback box on proposed rate rises and get better at this City of Karratha! And when you're "considering" any feedback received (do you actually?) take the time to also check what's in your</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>
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budget that warrants the proposed level of rises. Do you REALLY need to spend this much in 26/27? If so, provision of a rationale of WHY, what could be considered discretionary, is included during these difficult times, is really the least you can do for those of us contributing to paying for it.	
I'd like to see rates reflect the area you live NOT the Gross Rental Value- I'm not renting my house out as I want to live here. I do not think my suburb gets the same allocation of funds as the likes of Baynton West and Nickol West, in fact our suburb looks pretty bloody disgusting!	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.
I am not impressed. I live in Dampier and have done for 27 years, the last couple of years the city has done very little for the town. The cricket nets, the weeds in the foot paths are a danger. What are you actually doing? Yet the amount of money spent on gardens etc in Karratha must be huge.	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.
COK need to focus on lowering costs and efficiently managing funding supplied by residents.	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.
Its not acceptable in the current financial strain for any increase except for mining companies and their properties the public is tired of paying for the big companies downfall but city of karratha never listen and I doubt this will be read its a joke	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.
Rates should not be based on rental yield for owner occupied homes -it's pushing people who live and work here out of town. Encouraging people to leave town , taking valuable work force away. Some sort of discount or rebate for homes that are owner occupied would be beneficial. Why would I stay in Karratha and work here and contribute to the city when I could leave town and pay alot less in the city and rent my house out , contributing to the increase in rents and cost of living. If you're going to charge based on rent why shouldn't I rent it out? No wonder so many long term residents are being forced out.	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.
Bullshit you can't even keep the grass done on the verges on Marniyarra loop money grabbers	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.
<p>I strongly object the rate increase as the City's financial priorities do not align with the wants and benefits of the community, and all that is needed is better financial responsibility and for you to listen to the community</p> <p>Ratepayer funds should be prioritised toward roads, parks, community facilities, and projects that clearly benefit the broader community. Instead the City has chosen to be financially involved in apartment developments that majority didn't want and have a major impact on the surrounding homes of these buildings and will decrease these property values (on top of that you can't even answer questions) and now you put the</p>	No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.

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<p>burden on ratepayers to make up the shortfall on your loan to the developer and expect everyone to accept a rate increase during a period of financial pressure</p> <p>It's hard to justify a rate increase when better financial management can be achieved and when you are continuously spending millions on building workforce style accomodation. Owner occupiers also shouldn't have there rates calculated on GRV.</p>	
<p>I Disagree with this differential rates model. This statement: "Properties valued using gross rental value (GRV) are proposed to increase by 4%, which works out to an average increase of around \$1.80 per week for residential ratepayer for the 2026/27 financial year." is ridiculous. You have not considered the cost of living. NOT everyone works for the big 2 or earns big dollars. Many of us did not buy our homes for a million dollars and even though the GRV implies that our home can be rented for \$2000 doesn't mean that we can rent a home we live in.</p> <p>For me, my rates will be \$3751.63 with the increase of 4%. This is 40%of my family's combined monthly income. Then we factor in \$8000pa for insurance, the cost to live here, electricity etc - COK, you are contributing to families leaving the town they call home!</p> <p>What I suggest is zero increase or no more that 1% for those who owner occupy their home.</p> <p>People who rent their properties out (investors), and company owned housing should be charged 6% or more increase.</p> <p>Camps and large companies should be paying a 10% increase to cover the reduction for owner occupied homes. Why should transit worker occupied accomodation be charged the same as owner occupied?</p> <p>Yet again, you have not thought about those who want to live in the town and own their own homes. Instead you are pandering to the investors and businesses.</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL CATEGORY – Submissions received via What We Make It Page – 01-27 May 2026

Submission	Response
<p>I am writing to formally object to the proposed differential rates strategy.</p> <p>As both a homeowner and small business operator, in Karratha, I am directly impacted across multiple categories. While I understand the intent of creating a fairer distribution of rates, I believe the current proposal places an increasing burden on everyday residents and small business owners, rather than addressing the broader economic imbalance within the region.</p> <p>A key concern is the flow-on effect of rate increases applied to certain sectors, particularly those connected to mining and workforce accommodation. Historically, increased costs in these sectors are not absorbed but instead passed on — resulting in inflated rents and higher costs of living across the community. This disproportionately affects local residents who are not operating at mining-level income, including families, essential workers, and small business owners.</p> <p>I am acutely aware of the pressures facing tenants in Karratha. Any increase in holding costs — including council rates — contributes to upward pressure on rent, whether directly or indirectly. At a time when housing affordability is already a significant concern in the Pilbara, this strategy risks further exacerbating the issue.</p> <p>From a small business perspective, additional cost burdens reduce capacity for growth, staffing, and service delivery. Unlike large corporations, small local businesses do not have the same ability to absorb or offset increased operating costs. This ultimately impacts the broader community through reduced services, higher prices, or both.</p> <p>While the strategy appears to target higher-revenue sectors, in practice these costs cascade through the local economy and are ultimately borne by everyday residents.</p> <p>I urge the Council to reconsider the structure and impact of this proposal, with particular attention to:</p> <p>The downstream impact on rental affordability</p>	<p>No response provided as submission was made through the What We Make it website where author is not provided. Fact sheet provided on the site.</p>

Feedback Submissions – Differential Rates Advertising – 01 May 2026 – 27 May 2026

<p>The cumulative burden on individuals holding multiple roles within the community (homeowner, landlord, business operator)</p> <p>The lack of insulation for local residents from cost pass-through by large industries</p> <p>A more balanced approach is needed — one that ensures large-scale operators contribute fairly without creating unintended consequences for the wider community.</p> <p>Fairness, as port Hedland are not raising their rates for residential home, this would be a great start in supporting the people of karratha.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.</p>	
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