

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO LEVY DIFFERENTIAL RATES

In accordance with Section 6.36 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the Shire of Toodyay hereby gives notice of its intention to impose differential rates on rateable property in the shire of Toodyay in the 2018/19 financial year.

Details of the proposed differential rates are as follows:

Category of Property	Rate in \$	Minimum Payment \$
General Rate – Gross Rental Value (GRV)		
Residential	0.12386	1,290.00
Commercial	0.1562	1,290.00
Industrial	0.1241	1,290.00
Other	0.1145	1,290.00
Rural Residential	0.1153	1,290.00
General Rate – Unimproved Value (UV)		
General	0.1091	1,290.00
Rural	0.08928	1,290.00

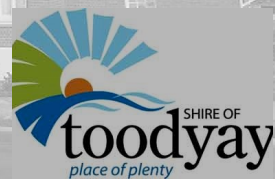
The rates in the dollar (\$) shown are estimates and may be changed as part of the Council's deliberations of any submission received. All normal statutory concessions for pensioner and other concession holders will apply.

The object of and reasons for each proposed rate and minimum payment may be inspected at any time on the Shire's website [Toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au) or at the Shire's administration office, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay during normal business hours.

The Shire invites submissions in relation to the proposed differential rates to be received by **4.30pm Tuesday, 21 August 2018**.

Shire of Toodyay Contact Details

The 'Old Courthouse'
15 Fiennes Street (PO Box 96)
TOODYAY WA 6566
Administration: (08) 9574 9300
Works and Services Depot: (08) 9574 9360
Community Development: (08) 9574 9390
Rangers: (08) 9574 9370
Toodyay Public Library: (08) 9574 2323
Toodyay Visitor Centre: (08) 9574 9380
Email: records@toodyay.wa.gov.au
Web: <http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au>
Visitor Centre web: www.toodyay.com



TOODYAY WASTE TRANSFER STATION OPENING TIMES

Where: Railway Road, Toodyay

Opening Times: open every day of the week from 8.00am to 12.00pm, excluding Good Friday, Anzac Day, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.
Open till 3.00pm on the last Sunday of every month.

Contact: 9574 2661 during work hours

Proposed Toodyay Tourism Strategy 2018 - 2021

The Draft Toodyay Tourism Strategy 2018 – 2021 was recently considered by Council at Ordinary Council Meeting on 24 July 2018. At this meeting Council resolved to advertise the Draft Toodyay Tourism Strategy to seek input from the community.

A copy of the proposed Toodyay Tourism Strategy 2018 – 2021 is available from the Shire of Toodyay Administration Centre, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay between the hours of 8.30 am and 4.30 pm.

A public copy for viewing is held at the Administration Offices, Toodyay Visitors Centre and the Toodyay Public Library.

You can download the DRAFT Toodyay Tourism Strategy 2018 - 2021 from the Shire of Toodyay Website at:

<http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au/Public-Notices>

We welcome your written comments by:

4.00 pm Friday 31 August 2018:

By mail: Shire of Toodyay PO Box 96, Toodyay WA 6566

In person: Shire Admin Centre, 15 Fiennes Street Toodyay

Via email: records@toodyay.wa.gov.au

For any enquiries, please contact Audrey Bell, Manager Community Development on 9574 9391.



SHIRE OF TOODYAY WORKS

In the month of August the Shire of Toodyay works crew will be continue performing general maintenance works around the Shire such as pruning, grading and drainage clearing as well as continuing with budgeted works schedule.

JOB	ESTIMATED COMPLETION TIME
Maintenance Works – pruning, grading and drainage	August 2018
Julimar road widening, seal and re-seal	September 2018

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS - 2018

Meeting	Date	Time
Council Forum	14 August 2018	4.00pm
Museum Advisory Committee	16 August 2018	4.00pm
Bush Fire Advisory Committee	21 August 2018	5.30pm
Ordinary Council Meeting	28 August 2018	4.00pm

Toodyay Community Newsletter

Produced by the Shire of Toodyay

Vol. 2 Issue 8 - August 2018



SUBSCRIBE TO THE TOODYAY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER - <http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au>



1931 School Bus Crash Memorial

6 August 2018 marks 87 years since the Coondle-Culham school bus, packed with 34 students, was hit by a train. Five boys died and 12 more children were injured, several seriously.

The impact of this terrible accident is still felt today by descendants and family members of those involved.

In 1932 a memorial tablet was presented to the Toodyay State School by members of the Toodyay RSL. This tablet remains on display at the Toodyay District High School today. While valued, it is less accessible by members of the general public.

In 1994 a brass plaque was produced, commemorating the planting of a native garden by Toodyay District High School students in memory of the children killed in the crash. For many years the plaque was located by the railway station steps until its mounting deteriorated. In 2012 it was moved to the museum collection for preservation. Its absence was felt by the community.

On 17 July 2018, on a glorious winter day, we were touched to unveil a new memorial, very near to where the collision actually occurred. The plaque is affixed to a stunning piece of Toodyay stone placed within a newly planted garden. **"Forever in our memory"**

On a positive note.....

As we finalise our budget for the coming year it is good to reflect on some of our successes:

- ♦ The Commonwealth has awarded \$4.7 Million funding towards the new Sport and Recreation Precinct most notably the new Pool!
- ♦ Lotterywest has provided \$197,000 towards the cost of restoring the Newcastle Gaol Museum;
- ♦ DFES has provided 2 grants - \$277,000 towards the new Coondle Nunile Fire Shed and \$316,000 towards the cost of upgrade of the Morangup Fire Shed to accommodate the SES Unit;
- ♦ DFES has fully funded a Bushfire Risk management Officer for the next 12 months.

There was a lot of hard work involved in making the case for these grants, and we will be seeking more. I congratulate all the staff involved in securing these funds and of course the funding agencies. It will be a busy year delivering these projects for Shire staff.

Rosedale Village - OFFICIAL OPENING

Hon Darren West MLC officially opened Rosedale Village Stage 1 in Toodyay on Monday, 6 August 2018. Rosedale Village is a complex of 9 new Independent Living Units owned and operated by Butterfly Cottages Association Inc., a not for profit community based aged housing provider. Butterfly Cottages was established in 1976. The addition of the 9 new units will increase to 21 the total number of independent living units managed by Butterfly Cottages.

Butterfly Cottages provides the opportunity for older residents to stay in Toodyay, continuing to enjoy the community and the belonging that comes with it, and to live in quality affordable housing. Butterfly Cottages is not part of a larger corporate entity or regional group. Its singular focus as a community led and community run affordable housing provider for older residents is part of the secret of its success.

Rosedale Village was part of a larger regional project managed by the Shire of Toodyay and part funded by Royalties for Regions. Toodyay's part of that project also involved significant financial investment by both the Shire of Toodyay and Butterfly Cottages. The result is a credit to everyone involved.

The regional project was managed by the Shire of Toodyay. In addition to the 9 units in Toodyay there were 2 units in each of Calingiri and Bolgart in the Shire of Victoria Plains and 4 units in the Shire of Goomalling.

The grant agreement for the Royalties for Regions funding was signed on 13 April 2015. Combined grants contributions to the project totalled almost \$1.3 million for Toodyay and \$3million across the region. The cash contribution from Butterfly Cottages was \$750,000 and in addition to managing the project the Shire contributed \$600,000 cash.

Rosedale Village is a great example of State and Local Governments working together with the community to produce much needed community infrastructure.





Help us fight for our farmers

In many parts of Australia, farmers are enduring a record-breaking drought. They are struggling to supply feed and water to their live-stock, and watching their crops fail before their eyes.

The reality of drought is long days, tough decisions and untold stress on families and finances alike. But a little support can make a big difference. Today, the National Farmers' Federation has joined forces with Channel Nine and Rotary Australia to appeal to the generosity of everyday Australians.

We are calling on individuals and businesses to donate what they can to the 2018 Drought Relief Fund.

100% of funds received will be directed by the National Farmers' Federation to relief organisations which are making an impact on the ground.

Please donate by visiting rawcs.org.au and share this with your network to help our farmers in this tough time.

Telstra answers calls for better mobile coverage

Mobiles are ringing and data is flowing around Toodyay with state of the art mobile technology now being available through Telstra's rollout of three new sites under the Federal Government's Mobile Black Spot Program (MBSP).

Telstra along with Federal, State and local government representatives gathered at Toodyay's community resource centre to celebrate and acknowledge the importance of the new mobile base stations at Coondle, Julimar and Morangup.

Telstra Area General Manager Boyd Brown said the three new mobile base stations provided improved coverage to local residents as well as motorists on nearby roads. Mr Brown said the new base stations were among 189 sites being delivered by Telstra across Western Australia under the MBSP and part of \$75 million worth of investment in the State's central and southern regions.

"These new base stations are game changers for local residents and businesses who can now make and receive mobile calls as well as access high speed mobile broadband using our 3G and 4GX services," he said.

"Toodyay is a thriving regional centre and mobile coverage is essential to connect friends and families, businesses, farms, tourist hot spots and essential services.

"Whether it's a parent being able to call their children, a small business taking a credit card payment for the first time or a local producer using sensors to run their farm more effectively, mobile connectivity is important for lifestyle and growth in regional areas."

Mr Brown said Telstra recently launched the 400th mobile base station in WA under the Federal Government's successful program.

"So far, more than 60 million calls have been made and more than 2,500 terabytes of data have been downloaded thanks to these new base stations, showing how important connectivity is to regional and remote communities."

Mr Brown said Telstra is committed to continue leading the way in



Toodyay's 2019 Citizen of the Year Awards

Time to start thinking about your nominations for the 2019 Community Citizen of the Year Awards. Toodyay has many local heroes in areas involving education, health, fund-raising, voluntary services, business, sports, arts, the environment, social inclusion or any other area that contributes to the advancement and wellbeing of the community.

This is your golden opportunity to acknowledge those making an outstanding effort to make Toodyay the best place to live. Categories include: Citizen of the Year, Youth Citizen of the Year (under 25), Senior Citizen of the Year and Active Citizenship (Group or Event).

Nominations open 1 September 2018 and close 31 October 2018 and Category winners will be announced at Toodyay's 2019 Australia Day Celebrations. To nominate online please visit: their website.

mobile connectivity. As well as delivering immediate benefits to the local communities the new site readies the region for future rollouts of new technologies, such as 5G.

"We continue to invest more in building mobile networks in regional and rural communities than any other mobile network provider, and we offer more mobile coverage in more parts of the State," he said. Mr Brown said Telstra's \$260 million contribution to the Mobile Black Spot Program, more than double the commitment of all other carriers combined, complements its own direct investment in building Australia's largest and fastest mobile network, which now covers more than 2.5 million square kilometres.

"We have a long and proud history of investing in regional areas and over the previous three financial years have invested \$2.2 billion in our regional mobile network so more people can experience a connected world that supports their way of life," he said.

In addition to more than 650 mobile base stations to be delivered under the Mobile Black Spot Program, Telstra is continuing to install up to 250 Small Cells to deliver high speed 4G data services and mobile voice services for those with VoLTE enabled devices in some small country towns where suitable Telstra infrastructure is available.



Bush Fire Exercise for Toodyay

On Saturday, 1 September 2018, a regional bushfire exercise will be taking place in Toodyay. The exercise aims to provide fire fighters practice in defence of assets in the Rural Urban Interface (RUI).

Fire crews and appliances from Toodyay and surrounding areas will be out in force putting their skills to the test in a simulated exercise. The exercise will take place in Toodyay town site, north of the river stretching from approximately Slaughterhouse Bridge to Drummond Street (West).

Residents in the area were recently delivered letters explaining the exercise letting them know how they can become involved or elect to opt out of the exercise. A 'drop - In' pre exercise information session will be held at the Toodyay Showgrounds on Thursday, 23 August 2018 from 6pm to 7:30pm – all are welcome to drop in for bushfire preparedness advice (even if you do not live in the exercise area).

For more information please contact the Community Emergency Services Manager at the Shire of Toodyay on 9754 9300.



\$316,000 Grant for Emergency Services Facility Upgrade

The Shire of Toodyay was recently awarded a \$316,000 grant to formally co-locate the Toodyay SES at the Morangup Bush Fire Brigade Station.

Toodyay SES was formed in 2014 with one vehicle. Since then the membership has grown and additional vehicles welcomed by the unit which has warranted the application for upgrade.

The upgrade will provide additional vehicle bays for SES vehicles and an upgraded meeting/training/incident control room.

Of course, being co-located means that the Morangup Volunteer Bushfire Brigade will also benefit from the upgrades. The grant results from Emergency Services Levy funds distributed by DFES under the Local Government Grants Scheme. This grant is in addition to a grant received for a new facility for Coondle-Nunile Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade in the previous funding round.

Both Toodyay SES and Morangup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade welcome new members – please contact:

toodyayseslocalmanager@gmail.com

or

captainmvbfb@gmail.com

respectively for further information or contact the Shire for more emergency services volunteering opportunities in your part of Toodyay.



Local Government Act 1995 review update

For the first time in more than 20 years, the *Local Government Act 1995* is being reviewed to modernise the Act so that it meets the current and future needs of the Western Australian community and local government sector.

The engagement period for phase one of the review closed in March 2018. Approximately one - third of local governments provided a submission to phase one of the review. These submissions were a valued input to the review and directly informed the preparation of recommendations.

Announcement of phase one reforms

On 1 August 2018, the Minister announced a suite of phase one reforms which have been developed in consultation with the local government sector and broader community. This is a significant milestone in the review and will strengthen public confidence in local government and the sector's capability to deliver for the community.

Key reforms to be implemented under phase one include:

- universal training for candidates and council members
- better standards of behaviour
- improvements to CEO recruitment and performance review
- simplified gift framework

The reforms also have identified out of date provisions for removal that will increase local government efficiency.

Further information on each of the phase one reforms can be found on information sheets available on the Department's website.

Local Government Act 1995 review: phase two

Phase two of the review is underway. In July 2018, topic forums were held in Leederville. More than 100 people from local government and the broader community attended the nine forums, either in person or by Skype, following more than 150 expressions of interest. The topic forums have informed options to be considered in discussion papers that will be released in the coming months.

These discussion papers will canvass options in diverse areas such as community engagement, elections, rates and financial management.

Next steps

Drafting of the legislative reforms for phase one of the review will now commence to prepare a Bill for Parliament to amend the *Local Government Act 1995*.

With phase two of the review underway, it is worth reiterating that this is a once in a generation opportunity for the sector to shape the future of local government in this State. More opportunities to get involved will be announced shortly.

If you would like to contact the review team please email: actreview@dlqsc.wa.gov.au.

What's happening in and around Toodyay.....

Targa West Events

Making Smoking History Targa West Rally is set to rock the Avon Valley again this year with stages touring through the Shire of Toodyay and the Shire of Chittering on: Saturday, 11 August 2018!

- 8:55am - 10.40am Rally Stages on Toodyay Racecourse.
- 9.15am - 1.45pm Toodyay Service Park - Stirling Terrace.
- 10.30am - 1pm Rally Stages on Coondle West SS..
- 11.20am to 1.00pm Rally Stages on the Toodyay SS.
- 1pm - 4.30pm Maryville Downs Stage in Lower Chittering

Want to get in on the action? View the Course Maps showing designated spectator areas on this link: <https://www.targawest.com.au/residents/>

19 August 2018: Toodyay Farmers Market. Held on the third Sunday of the month, the Toodyay Farmers Markets offer plenty of artisan stalls, education sessions and entertainment. Representatives and Councillors from the Shire will be in attendance to discuss issues and problems residents may be experiencing .
9 September 2018: Montage in the Garden. An opportunity to purchase a unique gift from an eclectic range of hand crafted goods. Meet the artist and producers in the garden area surrounding Earth Sculptures Studio. Light lunches and refreshments available, plus live entertainment. For more information go to <https://earthsculptures.com.au/montage-in-the-garden/>

Toodyay Community Program 9 - 13 July

Fun was had by all at the Toodyay Community Program during the July school holidays. Tai Chi provided an afternoon of relaxation and excitement (depending on when you were watching) with everyone learning the calm meditation moves as well as energetic Kung Fu moves. Our Morangup residents enjoyed the Mosaic Art activity held at the Morangup Community Hall. The turnout was fantastic, and there was barely enough supplies to go around! The Toodyay Community Resource Centre rounded out the week with The Emoji Movie. A big thank you to all who were involved including the Toodyay Friends of the River, Toodyay Seed Group, Avon Grove Tai Chi and Peter Robinson.
A small but enthusiastic group helped the Toodyay Friends of the River plant trees at Millards Pool. A few participants went to have a look at the trees planted upstream two years ago and were excited to see how much they had grown.



VIETNAM
Veterans Day

COMMEMORATION SERVICE
FOR THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES
IN DEFENCE OF THEIR COUNTRY
Saturday 18 August 2018
11.00am—Anzac Park, Toodyay
CONDUCTED BY
The Returned and Services League of

14th Annual Toodyay International Food Festival

The 14th Annual Toodyay International Food Festival on Saturday was yet another successful Toodyay event. The Avon Descent race was absolutely fantastic, with the high river allowing for record breaking times. Although there was plenty of rain, the sun made an appearance throughout the day to brighten things up, along with colourful stilt walkers and a roving magician. There was so much food to choose from, with food stalls and trucks showcasing many different cuisines. 'Locals Lane' was a new addition to the festival this year, showcasing local businesses and community groups. The main stage came to life with cultural acts from Indonesia, Africa and Russia, with bands playing through the afternoon.
WA Food Ambassador Don Hancey showcased local produce in his cooking demonstrations, while Duid-gee Park hosted a family fun day with bouncy castles, face painting, colourful fairies and slot car racing. A big thank you to all who braved the mud to attend, perform or provide food at the festival. It made for a great day that will not be forgotten in a hurry.

Thank you to our sponsors, Lotterywest, the Shire of Toodyay, Toodyay & Districts Community Bank, Toodyay Op Shop, Toodyay Post Office, Toodyay Bottlemart, Toodyay Chamber of Commerce and Freemasons Hotel Toodyay. Without your valuable support this event would not be possible.



President's Pen - Cr Brian Rayner



I have not been able to wipe the smile from my face after hearing the Building Better Regions Fund Grant of \$4.7 million announcement by the Honourable Christian Porter. But the first question asked is - what does this entail? Firstly a pool. Second question, can we have a heated covered in pool? No, for two reasons, the modelling was for an open air pool operating six months of the year and a covered in heated pool would over run the total life costing and your rates would need to increase substantially to operate the pool twelve months of the year.

Following the pool is a sporting field of hockey, soccer, rugby, netball and basketball along with the infrastructure to accommodate those sports. We have a very tight time line of about twenty weeks to commence the project.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the local businesses who pledged 'in kind' contributions to the project and we look forward to those pledges being honoured over the next eighteen months.

I have engaged in many conversations over rates and the projected budget for the 2018/19 financial year. While overseas on the Western Front and

Normandy, Council passed a resolution 4/3 to increase rates by 0.9%. It was not with an absolute majority.

In the July meeting after a further all day budget session, Council passed a resolution to increase rates by 2.2% with a 5/4 absolute majority.

In the past six to seven years Toodyay has completed many Community Projects for the betterment of our community.

I would like to take this opportunity to identify a few of our achievements during this time: the Toodyay Entry Statement, the new Information Bay, upgrade to the Community Centre, refurbishments and new toilets in the Toodyay library, repairs and upgrade of Mrs O'Reilly's Cottage, Bendigo Bank Building upgrade, sealing the Bendigo Bank Car Park, re roofing and air conditioning of the Memorial Hall, CCTV in numerous locations in the CBD, sealing of Charcoal Lane and car park, Stage 2 of the Skate Park, upgrade of the Dudge Park shelters/BBQ/lawn and play equipment, lighting in Stirling Park, retaining wall and upgrade of the Anzac War Memorial, upgrade and walkway of the Wicklow Shearing Shed and the refurbishment of the Convict Gaol and Museum. We also assisted in upgrading the Morangup Fire Station/SES and St John Ambulance building. This is very

JUST THE FACTS...

In May 2018 Cr Benjamin Bell published a column in the Toodyay Herald. At the May Council meeting, Council requested that the CEO review the information for factual accuracy. Detailed below are the outcomes of that fact-checking:

Claim 1 There has been almost 5 years of recession.

The Truth Gross State Product is expected to rebound to 2.5% in 2017-18 and 3.25% in 2018-19, following the first annual contraction on record in 2016-17 (of -2.7%).

Claim 2 Household debt is growing at its fastest rate on record with a typical family's debt now at 200 per cent times their annual income.

The Truth Analysis of debt levels in Toodyay indicate a higher proportion of people in Toodyay with low mortgage repayments and lower proportion of people with high mortgage repayments compared to WA in total. The same is evident amongst renters.

Claim 3 But as the council's recent rates comparison review by accountants Moore Stephens shows, Toodyay has ostensibly priced itself out of this market with shire rates now higher than most other comparable shires in Western Australia

The Truth The review said nothing of the sort. The review indicated that Toodyay for GRV had the second lowest rate yield per property, and \$100 (4.9%) per property less than the average. The yield per property for UV is 9.7% above the average, and the third highest of the 6 in the comparison group. It also identified that Toodyay's operating surplus was barely sufficient to cover capital needs.

Claim 4 Toodyay is one of WA's more expensive shires for rates.

The Truth That is not supported by the evidence in the report. The report showed the average GRV Rates per property was higher in Chittering, Denmark, Katanning and York. Only Waroona raise less per property and they have access to mining rates.

Claim 5.. The State being in recession for most of the past five years.

The Truth WA had only one year of recession, 2017-18. Gross State Product grew by 6% in each of 12-13 and 13-14.

Claim 6 ... rates paid by Toodyay residents far beyond that paid by those living in similar shires across Western Australia.

The Truth Not supported by the evidence. Toodyay is one of the lowest.

Claim 7 the amount of money the shire spends on community services has not changed since 2013.

The Truth Spending on community amenities increased by 12% between 2013 and 2017. In the same period cash backed reserves (savings for future facilities) increased by \$1.25 million, or 67%.

Claim 8 The shire's spending on law and order (and fire prevention) last year of around \$400,000 is \$100,000 less than it spent in 2013 and a long way short of 2012 when the shire spent almost \$1 million on policing and fire prevention in that year alone.

The Truth Spending in 2012-13 and 2013-14 included capital works on access and egress tracks, part funded by the Commonwealth.

Claim 9...the shire's wage bill, which has increased by around \$1.2 million – or 140 per cent – since 2013.

The Truth Total employee costs have increased by 35%, and this has included strategic decisions like employing an Environment Officer, Reserves Management Officer, Mechanic, Apprentice and bringing sport and recreation in house.

Claim 10...councillors' fees which have doubled over the same period.

The Truth The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal significantly increased Councillor remuneration in 2013. The increase since then has been 14%. Council adopted a policy in 2007 to pay Councillors only 80% of what is available. That has not changed.

Claim 11 Since 2013 the development of the proposed recreation reserve has cost ratepayers a very surprising \$5.5 million.

The Truth The actual breakdown of costs is \$2.79m spent (not \$5.5M). The \$2.79 includes the purchase of the land at \$1.68M.

Claim 12 Should the council have any issues with the budget, it is sent back to the CEO for refinement until such time as it meets the satisfaction of the council. Once the council approves the CEO's draft budget, it is presented to the Toodyay community for consideration and feedback.

The Truth The budget is always a Council budget and the budget is set by Council. Council workshops the budget and changes are made by consensus prior to formal adoption by Council.



Dr Harry Randhawa, Chief Executive Officer of Wheatbelt Health Network has announced that a new full time GP will be commencing with the Toodyay Medical Centre on Monday, 20 August 2018.

The new Doctor's name is Dr David Infeld and he is an experienced practitioner.

Dr Infeld's arrival will complement the existing service profile which includes Dr Paul Gallacher (Monday to Wednesday) and Dr Yulinda Thio (Thursdays).



JUST THE FACTS cont'd...

Claim 13 A public session or meeting between council and ratepayers then occurs.

The Truth Community budget bids are invited and submissions on draft differential rates are invited. There is no public meeting to consider the budget.

Claim 14 Tribunal freezes councillors' pay The WA Salaries and Allowances Tribunal has declared that local government salaries for councillors and CEOs cannot rise this year, so there is no increase on the cards for the shire's 2018-19 salary bill.

The Truth The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal sets the bands for Councillors and the CEO. Unless they are paid the maximum, increases are possible. There is no proposed change to sitting fees for Councillors and the CEO has volunteered to freeze his wages for a second consecutive year. Other staff are not covered by the SAT.

Claim 15 Can we not hold off spending the proposed \$1.8 million on more earthworks at the recreation centre site this coming year given that it still remains unclear – to me at least – how the shire intends to fund this ambitious project?

This action alone would enable council to cut rates by 30 per cent this year without any impact on the services the shire presently provides to the community.

The Truth It is a condition of the grant that work commence this financial year. Council, including Cr Bell, agreed in December 2017 to the funding strategy including applying for the \$4.7 million grant that has just been approved.

Claim 16 budget savings of at least \$450,000 every year by simply improving financial oversight of its road construction budget

The Truth There is no evidence to support this claim – it is just wrong.

Claim 17 The River Road construction and seal work, for example, cost twice the initial budget.

Roadworks currently underway in Wattle Way, Morangup, are currently 25 per cent over budget, as are road works in Oddfellow Street in the Toodyay townsite.

The Truth These were offset by a number of other projects which were under budget. We are proposing to invest in better design capability leading to more precise costing with less variances, over



VANDALS ARE AT IT AGAIN!!

There has been some vandalism at the IGA carpark toilets. This happened on Tuesday, 8 August 2018 between 8.00am and 11.00am. The damage has already been fixed with a cost of around \$1000. Police have been informed.

If we could all keep our eyes peeled and report any suspicious behaviour to the Police immediately, we may be able to catch the culprits who, once caught, will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

The cost of repairing and cleaning the damage caused by such anti-social behaviour is ultimately borne by ratepayers and the damage itself reflects poorly on the image of our town. Any residents who have information regarding the identity of the offenders are encouraged to contact the police on 9574 2212.

Please note: Do not approach anyone undertaking suspicious

and under, in project costs. The overall roads program was completed and on budget. To reduce the budget means reducing the number of projects.

Claim 18 Shire vehicles sold too soon THE ISSUE is that the shire's vehicles rarely seem to make it to their kilometre/hours used limit, and thus are disposed of prematurely.

The Truth This is not the case. The Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia guidelines identify the optimum changeover time. If vehicles are retained too long the trade in value decreases, the maintenance cost increases which drives up the total cost. Every year Council examines the proposed changeovers and defers purchases where prudent to do so.

Claim 19 Take the shire's UD Nissan GW470 truck to be replaced this coming year even though it has travelled only 155,000km on the clock. The price of a replacement truck is \$260,000 minus any trade-in value that the shire may receive on the current truck.

The Truth Changeover of this truck was a Council decision based on specific issues with that vehicle. Cr Bell was present for the decision.

Claim 20 The shire's Bandit 990XP Chipper provides another perfect example of this. The chipper is scheduled to be replaced this year despite having clocked up only 400 hours of use. It was meant to be replaced when it had done 5000 hours, and the cost of replacing this still near-new machine is \$65,000.

The Truth This equipment is to be sold and NOT replaced. It is part of a strategy to dramatically increase productivity in verge maintenance. Details of this approach have been included in budget briefings.

Claim 21 This year, the shire spent \$750,000 replacing vehicles despite most of them not getting close to their kilometre or hour limits, as per the shire's policy. The current year's budget has a further \$700,000 earmarked to replace existing vehicles in the shire's fleet although none of them are even close to their kilometre or hour limits.

The Truth Even if this was true, which it is not, it does not allow you to reduce your rate base. Delaying replacement means there is a higher bill next year and less money to do it.

Claim 22 an eight per cent reduction is both realistic and achievable

The Truth To restore Council's financial position after an 8% decrease this year would require a 25% increase next year. If Council waited another year, the required increase would be 35%.