

Objectives and Reasons for Proposed Differential Rates and Minimum Payments for the 2026-2027 Financial Year

Overall Objective

The purpose of the levying of rates is to meet Council's budget requirements in each financial year in order to deliver services and community infrastructure. Property valuations provided by the Valuer General are used as the basis for the calculation of rates each year. Section 6.33 of the *Local Government Act 1995* provides the ability to differentially rate properties based on zoning and/or land use as determined by the Shire of Cue. The application of differential rating maintains equity in the rating of properties across the Shire, enabling the Council to provide facilities, infrastructure and services to the entire community and visitors.

Gross Rental Value (GRV)

The *Local Government Act 1995* determines that properties of a non-rural purpose be rated using the Gross Rental Valuation (GRV) as the basis for the calculation of annual rates. The Valuer General determines the GRV for all properties within the Shire of Cue every five years and assigns a GRV. The new valuation will take effect from 1 July 2022. Interim valuations are provided monthly to Council by the Valuer General for properties where changes have occurred (i.e. subdivisions or strata title of property, amalgamations, building constructions, demolition, additions and/or property rezoning). In such instances Council recalculates the rates for the affected properties and issues interim rates notices.

GRV – General

Consists of properties located within the townsite boundaries with a predominant residential use and all other GRV rated properties that do not fit into the other GRV categories. This rate is considered by Council to be the GRV general rate by which all other GRV rated properties are assessed.

GRV – Commercial

Properties used for Commercial, Town Centre or Industrial purposes and open to the public and passing trade on a regular basis (more than 100 days a year). The rate reflects a differentiation from the GRV General rate to encourage property owners to develop commercial enterprise and stimulate economic activity in the town centre and industrial area. To facilitate this, the rate applied will be the same rate in the dollar as the GRV General Rate category and a discount provided in accordance with section 6.46 of the *Local Government Act*. The discounted rate will be twenty percent of rates levied for the category. The discount will only apply if the rates are paid in full by the due date. This discount is not available to properties that are minimum rated, zoned residential, home-

based businesses or businesses that do not offer an open shopfront to the public on the property.

This strategy has the benefit of ensuring commercial property owners pay their rates by the due date to take advantage of the discount, ensures they are aware that their rates are discounted substantially as Council is very supportive of local business and that the generous discount is not applied to those commercial property owners with outstanding rate arrears.

GRV – Vacant

Consists of vacant properties located within the townsite boundaries excepting land zoned as Tourist, Commercial and Industrial.

GRV – Mining and Transient Workforce Facilities

Properties used for high density Minesite accommodation exclusive of Lodging Houses. The rate reflects the cost of servicing a high-density development that places a significant amount of financial pressure on Council to provide services such as road maintenance, parking control, heavy vehicle movements, litter control, rubbish site maintenance, airport infrastructure and maintenance and other amenities. It should be noted that, even in relation to services for which separate fees and charges are levied, many of these fees and charges do not recover the full cost of operating the facility or providing the service. In such cases, the difference between the revenue derived from fees and charges and the actual costs of providing the services and facilities must be met from rates. So, it is appropriate that the category of ratepayers that receive a significant benefit from the facilities make a fair contribution.

This differential rate maintains a proportional share of rating required to raise the necessary revenue to operate efficiently and provide the diverse range of services and associated infrastructure and facilities required for developed residential and urban areas. These services and facilities are available to transient workforce workers in the same manner as they are available to other residents of the Shire and the contribution from this category has been set at a level that reflects this. Council is focussed on sustainably managing its community and infrastructure assets through the funding of renewal and replacement asset programs. These programs include but are not limited to investment in the resealing of roads, replacement and development of footpath networks, refurbishing of public ablutions and other building maintenance programs. In addition, these properties have access to all other services and facilities provided by Council.

The average rates per transient workforce accommodation unit are less than the equivalent minimum rate for a single bedroom residence. Despite the lower rate per accommodation unit, transient workforce properties have the potential to have a greater impact on Council services and assets than other properties due to their number of occupants in a relatively

small land parcel (i.e. concentrated bus and vehicle movements on local roads). In order to appropriately maintain and manage Councils asset and infrastructure in the longer term, a higher differential rate is proposed for this category to reflect the greater potential and actual intensity of use of Council assets and infrastructure.

Unimproved Value (UV)

Properties that are predominantly of a rural purpose are assigned an Unimproved Value that is supplied and updated by the Valuer General on an annual basis.

UV – Pastoral

Consists of properties that are outside of the townsite that have a commercial use inclusive of pastoral leases or pastoral use. This category is rated to reflect the level of rating required to raise the necessary revenue to operate efficiently and provide for rural infrastructure and services in addition to the urban services and infrastructure which are available to be accessed by the properties in this category.

UV – Mining

The object of this rate is to apply a base differential general rate to UV-Rated mining tenements and provide for the cost of operating all the facilities and services that are available to residents and ratepayers to use including rural roads upon which mining enterprises rely, other than those services and facilities for which separate fees and charges are levied on a cost-recovery basis. It should be noted that, even in relation to services for which separate fees and charges are levied, many of these fees and charges do not recover the full cost of operating the facility or providing the service. In such cases, the difference between the revenue derived from fees and charges and the actual costs of providing the services and facilities must be met from rates. So, it is appropriate that the category of ratepayers that receive a significant benefit from the facilities make a fair contribution.

In addition to contributing to the costs of facilities and services available to residents and ratepayers, the rate recognises the additional administrative burden and costs associated with administering this class of rates and the risks of non-collection due to tenement deaths and deregistration of mining companies, additional wear and tear on Shire assets as a result of frequent heavy vehicle use over extensive lengths of Shire roads throughout the year, additional compliance burdens and costs and unrecovered legal expenses.

The reason for the GRV Mining rate is to ensure that all ratepayers make a reasonable contribution towards the ongoing maintenance and provision of works, services and facilities throughout the Shire, as well as a contribution to the Shire's administrative costs proportionate to the additional risks and burdens imposed upon the Shire by Mining Ratepayers.

Minimum Rates

The setting of minimum rates within rating categories is an important method of ensuring that all properties contribute an equitable rate amount. A minimum rate of \$536.00 has been set for all rate categories.