

“Council News”



Budget 2015/2016

August 2015

Message from the Shire President



*Shire President,
Cr Onida Truran*

The new financial year sees the presentation to Council of a fresh Council Budget. I can say with confidence that this has been a very difficult budget for staff to put together for a variety of reasons. Nevertheless Council has considered in depth the 2015/16 Budget and I have pleasure in presenting it to ratepayers and residents of the Shire of Yilgarn.

The Shire has moved into a new phase with total operating expenditure of \$21.25 million (including depreciation) and a further \$8.29 million on capital expenditure resulting in total expenditure of \$29.6 million. This expenditure is funded from various sources including rates, grants and general revenue. Rating is a matter I will discuss later.

There are several initiatives included in the budget which I believe the Community will welcome, with the completion of the sullage pit at the Southern Cross tip, the completion of stage 1 of the Independent Living Units on Antares Street (stage 1 comprises 4 units with infrastructure for a further 8 units), the creation of a visitors centre/CRC in uptown Southern Cross which will lift the profile of that area, major works at the caravan park and swimming pool, continuing the plant replacement programme and of course an extensive and necessary road programme.

Council has resolved that in general a 3.0% increase in rates will apply to residential and commercial properties whilst a 4.5% increase is imposed on rural properties. Council advertised its differential rates, as is required by the Local Government Act, and received 3 objections to the mining rate in the dollar. Council sought advice from the Department of Local Government and Communities and were told that a major reduction was required. In line with a position tendered by the Department of Local Government and Communities, Council has reduced the GRV mining and SPQ rate to 22.5 cents which required Ministerial approval as it exceeds twice the lowest rate. The UV mining rate is 18 cents which also required Ministerial Approval. The adverse impact on rating revenue this year is approx. \$500,000 causing Council to utilise some of its Reserve Funds. The Reserve Fund balance at 30 June 2016 is expected to be \$3.47 million.

The Shire of Yilgarn is in a reasonable financial position at 1 July 2015 with a Reserve Fund balance of \$5.47 million, however, prudent financial management will be necessary in future years with a possible continuing downturn in rating revenue achieved from the mining industry. Once again Council has had no need to borrow funds to complete projects.

Finally I take this opportunity to advise residents that Council have appointed Mr Brian Jones to the position of Chief Executive Officer for a three (3) year term commencing on 3rd September 2015. Best wishes for the coming financial year.

Cr Onida Truran
Shire President

Property Rates

Rates are set on the basis of two factors:

- ❖ The rate in the dollar set by Council; and
 - ❖ Property Valuations provided by the Valuer General.
- Council's 2015/2016 Budget provides for a 3.0% increase to all rating categories, with the exception being GRV and UV mining with an decrease of 43.76% & 14.63% respectively, plus UV rural up 4.5%.

In striking a rate in the dollar for levying rates Council considered a number of factors including the Consumer Price Index, Local Government Cost Index and consumer capacity to pay.

Minimum Rates

The Minimum Rate for both GRV and UV rated properties has been elevated to a more realistic level of \$370.00 except for UV mining at \$360 and ensures reasonable contribution toward Council's operations from all properties.

Why rates will fluctuate?

Rates will fluctuate from year to year as valuations and revaluations are received. An increase in rate revenue overall does not necessarily equate to an increase in the rates paid by any individual property owner, as substantial increases in valuations can have the affect of giving rise to total revenue, where a rate in the dollar increase applied 'across the board' is in line with the Consumer Price Index, and affords a modest increase.

Why use Differential Rates?

Council has utilised a differential rating system since 1995/1996 as a method of more equitably distributing the rate burden according to the level at which assessments consume Council Resources. Methods of valuation used for mining tenements and rural land are not compatible and result in major discrepancies between the two.

Concerns or complaints?

If any ratepayer has concerns regarding their Rates Account, they are more than welcome to contact our Rates Officer on 9049-1001.

Interest on Overdue Rates

Under the provisions of Section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995, Council will charge interest of 5.5% per annum, added to all rates levied on ratepayers participating in the formal rate instalment program. Council will charge interest of 11% per annum (deferred pensioners 5.50%), calculated daily on all overdue rates instalments and on rates outstanding on properties unpaid and not participating in a formal rates instalment plan.

Disability Access

In an effort to provide flexibility to all members of our community, Council maintains a Disability Access Inclusion Plan.

In recognition of this, persons finding difficulty reading this document may contact any member of Council's Administrative Team to obtain an electronic copy, or large print version of this document.

Further details of Council's Disability Access Inclusion Plan can be obtained by contacting Council's Manager of Environmental Health and Building Services, Miss Wendy Dallywater on (08) 9049 1001 during office hours.

Unpaid Rates

Persons with rates in arrears as at the 30th June 2015 would have already received a notice of intention to summons from Council's recovery agents, Ampac Debt Recovery, and in most cases, recovery action in the form of a Summons has already commenced.

If you are not on an eligible instalment plan, or if your rates remain unpaid 35 days after the issue date, your account will attract an interest penalty of 11%, calculated daily.

Council will issue one Final Notice, after such time, if the account remains unpaid, the matter will be handed to Council's Collection Agents for immediate recovery action, which can result in significant costly legal proceedings, such as Summons, Judgements and Warrants of Execution, with all costs associated becoming the responsibility of the account holder. Please be aware that any actions taken may effect the account holders credit rating.

Persons who continue to leave their accounts unpaid contribute to Council's overall debt, which in turn affects Council's ability to fund projects for the benefit of all residents. Ratepayers experiencing difficulty in meeting their obligations are encouraged to talk to Council's Rates Officer, sooner rather than later, in an effort to establish payment plan, in preference to recovery via other methods.

Change in Imposed Rates

Land Category	Rate in the \$	Minimum rate
UV - Mining Tenements	0.1805	\$360
UV - Rural	0.0182	\$370
GRV - Minesites	0.2250	\$370
GRV - SPQ	0.2250	\$370
GRV - Residential	0.1069	\$370
GRV - Commercial	0.0731	\$370

Objections to Valuations

Ratepayers may lodge an objection against the valuation assessed for their property with the Valuer General's Office. Objections must be lodged within sixty (60) days of the date of issue of the Rate Notice.

Even if an objection is lodged, rates must still be paid in full. (Council will refund any rates over-paid, should the Valuer General reduce a Valuation). Under no circumstances can persons leave their rates unpaid until the result of an objection is known.

Financial Hardship Policy for Water Services

The Shire of Yilgarn has adopted a "Financial Hardship Policy for Water Services" in accordance with changes to WA legislation. This Policy allows for a land owner who receives a sewage rate notice who is finding it difficult to pay the sewage rates component of their rates, to apply to the Shire to have a different payment system so that they can make payments to the Shire throughout the year, or to have the sewage rates waived if they are able to provide sufficient evidence that they are unable to make any payments. If the person feels that the Council has not dealt with them fairly then they can contact the Energy and Water Ombudsman for assistance in their negotiations with Council. Anyone wishing to discuss whether they can make payments for their sewage rates under this Policy should contact Wendy Dallywater (Manager Environmental Health & Building Services) or Mr Ed Garner (Finance Manager) at the Shire Office or telephoning (08) 9049 1001 during office hours.

Formal Instalments

Persons have the opportunity to pay in full by the due date, or by two or four instalments. Payments of the two instalments are due on 19th September 2015 and 7th January 2016, whilst the four instalments are due on the 9th September 2015, 9th November 2015, 7th January 2016 and 17th March 2016. Reminder notices will be automatically generated to persons taking up this option.

Informal Instalment Plans

If you are unable to pay the instalment rates shown on your rates notice, you may contact the Shire of Yilgarn's Rates Officer to discuss other payment options that can be customised to suit your needs.

Administration Fees

An administration fee of \$10.00 per instalment is charged on each formal rate instalment program accepted by ratepayers.

Discount on Early Payment

A 5% discount is offered to all ratepayers on land rates received, prior to the due date (9th September 2015)

Rubbish Collection Services

RUBBISH CHARGES

Council has increased the cost for providing a kerbside collection, to those properties which are able to receive the collection service, to \$324.00 for the 1st bin, (\$353.00 for additional) per annum for GRV Residential/Industrial properties, and to \$353.00 for GRV Commercial. This cost includes the provision of a fortnightly kerbside Recycling Collection service, which has been in place since 2004.

COLLECTION DAYS

Weekly kerbside collections are provided every Thursday for Bodallin and Moorine Rock and every Friday for Southern Cross and Marvel Loch. Furthermore, fortnightly Recycling Services are provided on the **second** and **fourth** Friday of each month.

Please note, in the event of a five-week month, the second and fourth Friday still applies for Recycling Services.

A Recycling Bin Day calendar can be acquired from the Shire Office free of charge.



Customer Payment Facilities

Council would like to remind ratepayers that payments can be made by Cash, Cheque or via EFTPOS, at Council's Administration Centre. You may also elect to complete and return your remittance advice to pay your account with your Credit Card (MasterCard, VISA or American Express). This service is provided at no additional transactional cost to persons electing to utilise this option. Additionally, telephone payments by Credit Card are accepted during office hours.

Council also offers a B-Pay option for payment of your rates. The bottom of your rates notice will have the Shire's B-Pay Biller reference number, and your unique B-Pay Code.

PAYING BY DIRECT CREDIT / EFT

OUR BANK DETAILS are:

BSB: 036-128

A/C: 000-012

Please use your assessment No. & Surname as the reference for this payment.

PAYING BY BPAY



Biller Code: 220178

Ref:

Telephone & Internet Banking - BPAY®
Call your bank, credit union or building society to make this payment from your cheque, savings or credit card account. More info www.bpay.com.au

BY MAIL



Detach this slip and make your cheque payable to:

SHIRE OF YILGARN
23 Antares Street, Southern Cross, WA 6426
No Receipt Issued

IN PERSON



Please present this account intact when making payment at Council Office.

EFTPOS AVAILABLE

Pensioner & Senior Rates

You will find a brochure included with your rates this year that has been specifically designed to inform pensioners about the discounts they can receive. If you have any questions about putting a concession on your property, please call the Shire office and speak to Louise Neilson, on (08) 9049 1001, or to make an application you can contact the Water Corporation on 1300 659 951, you do not need to be a Water Corporation customer to make an application.

Any person who wilfully makes a false statement in an application made pursuant to this section or who remains registered as an entitled pensioner/senior knowing that they are not eligible is guilty of an offence. **(Penalty \$1,000.00)**

REBATE REFERS TO CURRENT RATES ONLY ALL SERVICE CHARGES AND ARREARS MUST BE PAID IN FULL WITHIN 35 DAYS OF ISSUE

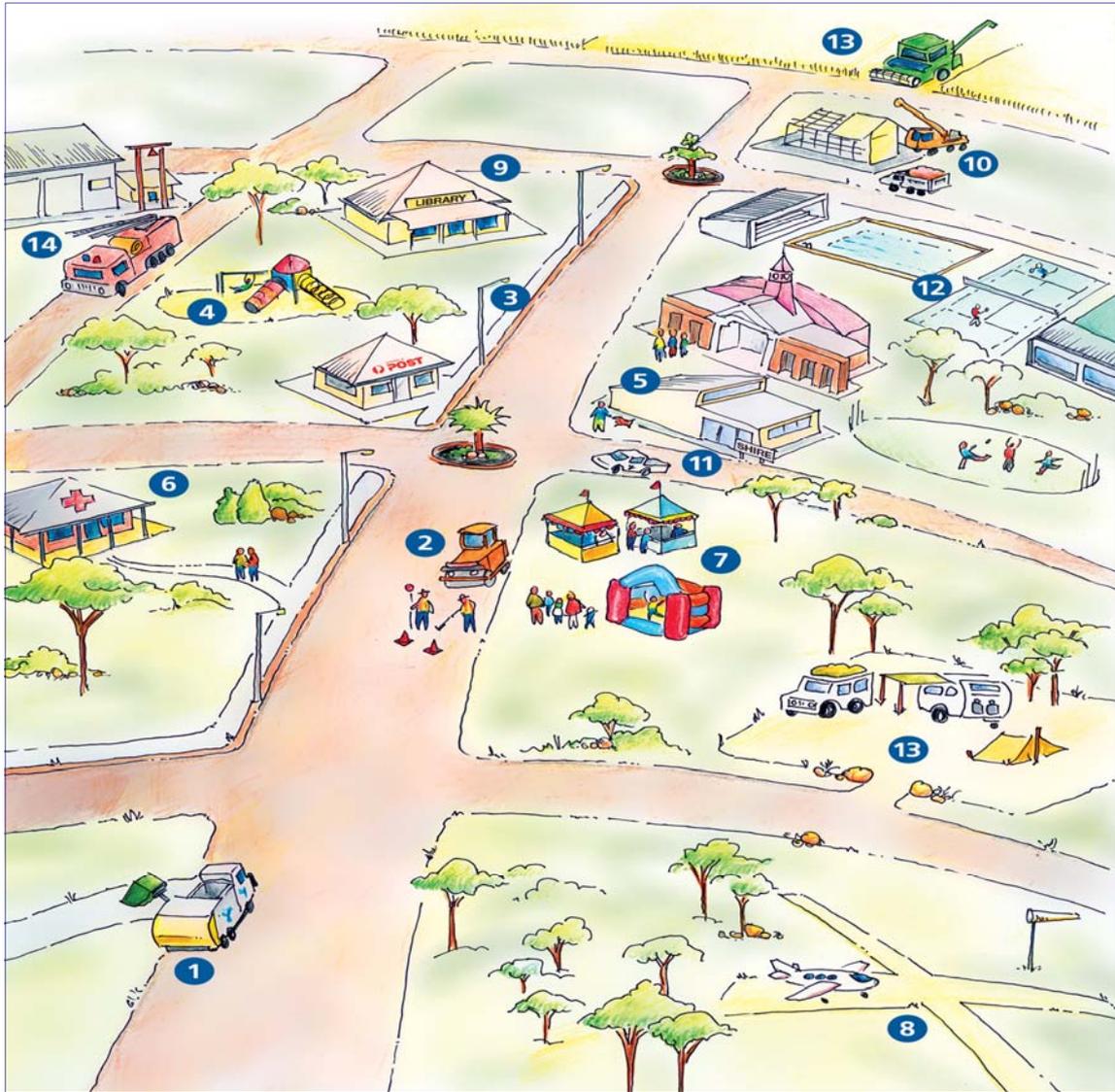
Shire of Yilgarn Website

Residents are reminded to have a look at our website for public notices, contact details, information relating to rates, job vacancies, tourism information, local business directory and much much more!

If you think there is something missing please let us know. Contact Jodie Karra on: 9049 1001 or aso@yilgarn.wa.gov.au



Where Does the Money Go?



1	Waste	6.00%	8	Airport	1.00%
2	Road Works	37.00%	9	CRC, Library, Seniors	14.00%
3	Infrastructure	5.50%	10	Planning and Building	1.00%
4	Parks, Streetscapes & Environmental	5.00%	11	Rangers and Security	0.50%
5	Corporate Governance & Administration	6.00%	12	Recreation and Swimming Pool	4.00%
6	Public Health	2.00%	13	Economic Services	12.00%
7	Community Development	1.00%	14	Fire Prevention	5.00%

ESL Charges 2015/2016

ESL Category	Minimum and Maximum ESL Charges By Property Use			
	Farming, Residential & Vacant Properties		Commercial, Industrial & Miscellaneous Properties	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
1	\$68	\$360	\$68	\$204,000
2	\$68	\$264	\$68	\$150,000
3	\$68	\$176	\$68	\$100,000
4	\$68	\$124	\$68	\$70,000
5	\$68	\$68	\$68	\$68
Mining Tenement	\$68	\$68	\$68	\$68

Road Construction & Maintenance

An allocation of \$4.3 million has been provided for the construction and maintenance of Council's expansive Road Network. Funding is provided from Main Roads WA for some of these projects, partially funded through the Roads 2030 scheme and Council Funding. One other source of Road Funding is the Federal Governments Roads to Recovery Program.

Some of the major projects during 2015/2016 Financial Year are as follows:

PROJECT	BUDGET	FUNDING
Koolyanobbing Road (construction)	\$518,421	MRWA/Council
Koolyanobbing Road (sealing)	\$98,063	MRWA/Council
Moorine South Road (sealing)	\$153,844	MRWA/Council
Bodallin North Road (sealing)	\$145,662	MRWA/Council
Parker Range Road (sealing)	\$117,551	MRWA/Council
Marvelloch Frog Rock Road (sealing)	\$295,906	Roads to Recovery
Cramphorne Road (construction)	\$447,423	Roads to Recovery
Dulyalbin Road (gravel)	\$147,277	Roads to Recovery
West Corinthia Road (gravel)	\$194,865	Roads to Recovery
Unkovich Road (gravel)	\$86,069	Roads to Recovery
Southern Cross South Road (seal)	\$378,698	Roads to Recovery
Southern Cross South Road (gravel)	\$118,617	Council
Kent Road (gravel)	\$81,126	Council
Koolyanobbing Road (gravel shoulder upgrade)	\$94,122	Council
Dulyalbin Road (gravel)	\$105,564	Council
Grace Road (gravel)	\$80,035	Council
Emu Fence Road (gravel)	\$119,314	Council
Scorpio Street (sealing)	\$9,221	Council
Spica Street (sealing)	\$46,929	Council
Phoenix Street (sealing)	\$20,978	Council
Lenneberg Street (sealing)	\$5,237	Council
Gruis Street (sealing)	\$9,525	Council
Centaur Street (sealing)	\$17,761	Council
Cheney Street Marvel Loch (sealing)	\$7,562	Council
Overington Street Marvel Loch (sealing)	\$8,997	Council
Burbidge Street Marvel Loch (sealing)	\$8,630	Council
Williamson Street Marvel Loch (sealing)	\$10,890	Council
Ronchi Street Marvel Loch (sealing)	\$7,000	Council
Argent Street Marvel Loch (sealing)	\$9,360	Council
Horan Street Marvel Loch (sealing)	\$8,875	Council
King Street Marvel Loch (sealing)	\$14,051	Council
Dual Use Pathways	\$18,110	Council
Community Assistance	\$12,600	Council
Infrastructure Maintenance (Unclassified)	\$223,012	Council
Infrastructure Maintenance	\$1,127,588	Council



Bushfires Act 1954—Shire of Yilgarn

Notice to all Owners & Occupiers of Land Within the Shire of Yilgarn — Requirements to Clear Firebreaks

Pursuant to the powers contained in Section 33(1) of the Bush Fires Act you are hereby required to plough, cultivate, scarify, burn or otherwise clear firebreaks on all land owned or occupied by you by 1 November 2015 and thereafter to keep these firebreaks clear of all flammable material until 31 March 2016. Firebreaks are required in locations and to the specifications detailed below.

LAND WITHIN TOWNSITES

- (a) On land not exceeding 2023 square metres in area, all flammable material shall be removed.
- (b) On land exceeding 2023 square metres in area, a firebreak 3 metres wide shall be constructed inside and immediately adjoining all external boundaries.
- (c) Firebreaks 3 metres wide shall be constructed immediately surrounding all buildings.
- (d) Haystacks must not be located more than 20 metres to an external boundary. They shall be surrounded by a 10 metre wide firebreak situated between 10 and 20 metres distance from stack.
- (e) Stored fuel, oil and flammable materials shall be protected from fire as prescribed in the Explosives and Dangerous Goods Act 1961 and the Flammable Liquids Regulations 1967.

RURAL LAND

- (a) Firebreaks 3 metres wide shall be constructed immediately inside and adjoining all property boundaries.
- (b) Firebreaks 3 metres wide shall be constructed immediately surrounding all buildings.
- (c) Firebreaks 3 metres wide shall be constructed between 10 and 20 metres distance from and surrounding all haystacks.
- (d) Stored fuel, oil and flammable materials shall be protected from fire as prescribed in the Explosives and Dangerous Goods Act 1961 and the Flammable Liquids Regulations 1967 and which include that a firebreak 6 metres wide will be provided immediately surrounding storage areas.

GENERAL

If for any reason it is considered by the owner or occupier of land that it is impractical to comply with the requirements of this notice, a request may be made to Council to approve alternative fire protection measures. Such application shall be accompanied by a sketch or drawing of the proposed variations and should be lodged at the Council offices no later than 31 October 2015.

Where approval of a proposed variation is not granted by Council you shall comply with the requirements of this notice. The penalty for non-compliance with this notice is a maximum of \$1,000 and notwithstanding prosecution, Council may enter on the land and carry out the requisite works at the owner/occupiers expense.

RESTRICTED AND PROHIBITED BURNING TIMES

Please be advised of the following:

RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD: 19 September 2015 to 31 October 2015 and 16 February 2016 to 31 March 2016.

(Note: Permits to burn during this period are required. Permits must be obtained from your nearest Bush Fire Control Officer)

Prohibited Burning Period: 1 November 2015 to 15 February 2016

(Note: Permits to burn stubble from the previous seasons crop will not be issued until 1 March 2016)

By order of the Council.

Eddie Piper
Acting Chief Executive Officer



Cat Registration

The Shire Office is now equipped to take registration for all domestic cats that are 6 months or older. They are required to be:

- Micro chipped, and
- Sterilised

Proof of micro-chipping and sterilisation will need to be provided and is now available from Merredin Veterinary Clinic by appointment.

All cats will be required to wear a collar and registration tag to ensure that cats can easily be returned to their owner.

Cat breeders will need approval from their local government to keep un-sterilised cats.

For more information, including tips for being a responsible cat owner, contact the Shire Office on (08) 9049 1001 or visit: www.dlg.wa.gov.au

FEES: 1 year - \$20.00
3 years - \$42.50
Life - \$100.00

When registering your cat, please ensure you have the microchip registration papers, and the sterilisation certificate with you.



Meet the New Chief Executive Officer

The President and Councillors would like to introduce the new Chief Executive Officer, Mr Brian Jones. Mr Jones is currently CEO at the Shire of Tammin and has previously worked as CEO at Katanning, Boddington and Irwin (Dongara).

Brian and his wife, Wendy will be moving to Southern Cross at the end of August and Brian will be starting work at the Shire, 3rd September 2015.

Mr Jones stated "I am grateful for the opportunity to be employed as the Yilgarn Shire CEO and am keen to work with the Council, the staff and the community to ensure the Shire continues to provide quality local government services. Wendy and I are looking forward to moving to Southern Cross and getting involved in the community".



Yilgarn Skeleton Weed Local Action Group

FACTS YOU MAY NOT KNOW:

- ⇒ Skeleton Weed is a **declared** plant in the Yilgarn
- ⇒ You **CAN NOT** seed through code 1 squares
- ⇒ All plants need reporting to DAFWA
- ⇒ The program is **still active**
- ⇒ If you can't prove winter treatment, you won't be eligible for summer search assistance
- ⇒ Have questions? Call Robbie to explain



Robbie Della Bosca, LAG Co-ordinator: 0427-791-135

Yilgarn Rainfall

YILGARN RAINFALL

The current rainfall totals for the Yilgarn are shown below.

Weather station location	January (mm)	February (mm)	March (mm)	April (mm)	May (mm)	June (mm)	July (mm)
Southern Cross Airport 2015	0	13	75.6	18.4	12.4	33.8	7.0
Southern Cross Airport Average (97-2015)	31.4	24.7	34.8	24.8	30.3	26.8	34.1

The above statistics were sourced from the Elders website on the 24th July 2015.

Shire of Yilgarn Emergency Information Hotline

Residents are reminded that the Shire of Yilgarn Emergency Information Hotline service is available. For all road closures, vehicle movement, bushfire and harvest ban information please call 9487 8777. This service is updated as required. For automatic updates on road closures within the Yilgarn district, harvest bans or notification of community events ask to be placed on the Shire of Yilgarn's Whispir list for text message and email notifications by contacting Kira Burns-Briggs on (08) 9049 1001. Further information is available as follows:-

- ❖ Road-use enquiries/reporting of road damage – please call Mr Robert Bosenberg (Manager for Works) on 0409 791 135, or Mr Noel Teale (Works Supervisor) on 0409 791 134.
- ❖ To report a sewerage fault – please call Miss Wendy Dallywater (Manager for Environmental Health & Building Services) on 0407 491 027.



whispir

9487 8777



Who to Contact?

Council's Management Team

Acting Chief Executive Officer
Mr Eddie Piper

Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr John Bingham

Manager for Works
Mr Robert J Bosenberg

**Manager for Environmental Health
& Building Services**
Ms Wendy J Dallywater

Where to Reach us:

Antares Street
PO Box 86

Southern Cross WA 6426

Ph: 08 9049 1001; Fax: 08 9049 1429

E-mail: yilgarn@yilgarn.wa.gov.au

Members of Council

Shire President

Cr O T (Onida) Truran

Deputy Shire President

Cr W A (Wayne) Della Bosca

Councillors

Cr J A M (Julie) Della Bosca

Cr G M(Gary) Guerini

Cr D J (Dave) Pasini

Cr B G (Bryan) Close

Cr K L (Kim) Chrisp

Council meets on the third Thursday of every month in the Council Chambers, Antares Street, Southern Cross, commencing at 3.30pm (unless advertised otherwise).

Members of the public are welcome to attend, with a 15 minute Public question time offered to visitors.

More information regarding Council and Council meetings can be obtained by contacting our friendly Administration Staff.

PAY YOUR RATES EARLY TO WIN!

In an effort to encourage early full payment of your rates, the Shire of Yilgarn is offering the following prizes:

First Prize:

A \$700 voucher to spend at
The Esplanade Hotel
Fremantle.



Second Prize:

\$300 Westfield shopping
voucher



Fourth Prize:

\$150 to spend at a local
Restaurant of your choice
in the Yilgarn

Third Prize:

\$200 Shopping spree at the
business of your choice in the
Yilgarn

Fifth Prize:

\$100 worth of Local WA
Wine, in a
selection of Whites and
Reds

Simply fill out your details below and return this section with your rates notice. The prize will be drawn at the September Council Meeting after the discount closing date of Wednesday 9th September 2015.

Assessment Number: _____ Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____