

“Council News”

August 2009

Special Edition



Budget 2009/2010



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It gives me great pleasure to again present a summary of the 2009/2010 Shire of Yilgarn Budget, a document that demonstrates Council's willingness to address the real issues and challenges facing local government, including the need to allocate additional funds to maintain and renew our infrastructure to ensure the long-term prosperity of the Shire and our residents.



Residents are always encouraged to peruse the Budget, and more importantly, Council's Plan for the Future of the District '2008 and into the Future', with copies of both documents available for viewing at Council's Administration Centre and Public Library.

The Budget includes a 10.25% overall increase in rating levels, which is higher than the Consumer Price Index, however when explained, it provides a clearer picture of the differential rates system that is elaborated further within the Property Valuations section of this document, under 'Why use Differential Rates?' and 'Why Rates will fluctuate?'.

- Rural and Farming properties—4.36% average increase, which was developed in line with Consumer Price Index,
- Townsite and Commercial properties—3.37% average increase, which was retained at a lower lever following revaluations applied last financial year,
- Increased mining activity over the past twelve months has proven fruitful, with UV Mining valuations increasing by 5% from July last year, primarily due to mining operators substantially increasing their application activity in regard Prospecting, Exploration and Mining Tenements.
- Additionally, Council's rating differential for Single Persons Quarters and Improved Mining Tenement properties, with a consolidated rate in the dollar fixed to more accurately reflect the activity of these properties, provides Council with an opportunity to recognise revenue more appropriately aligned than a GRV Residential rate can.

Council is cognisant of the financial impact experienced by all industries, and the burdening flow-on effect this has to the primary production, secondary engagement and tertiary consumption sectors. Whilst trying desperately to absorb cost increases as much as possible, Council has had to increase rating levels to meet our substantial obligations to service our residents.

Whilst the WA boom is in a lull, labour costs, materials, contract ors and fuel costs remain relatively unchanged, which supports Council's inability to provide further rate relief than has been provided within this Budget.

Not choosing to rest on its laurels, Council endeavours to maintain a strong and diverse workforce, and whilst unable to compete financially with other sectors within the district, Council's unique position of being able to offer work-life balance has been promoted as a mindset, and a series of attractive benefits continue to remain. This status enables Council to continue to strive for the long-term goal of becoming an Employer of Choice.

2009/2010 sees the seventh year of the State Government's Emergency Services Levy (ESL), to fund all Emergency Services operations. Once again, a brochure is enclosed with the Rates Package, explaining in further detail how the levy is to work. In terms of the Yilgarn benefiting from the ESL, we have received replacement Fire Appliances for nearly every Brigade, with those vehicles left, already earmarked for replacement in the not too distant future.

An allocation of \$90,000 has been provided to see the completion a new, secure landfill site for Southern Cross. The conversion of the Southern Cross Refuse Site into a Waste Transfer Station is all but complete, and will become operational as soon as the new Refuse Site is commissioned.

Council is always determined to ensure the lifestyle enjoyed by residents is maintained and expenditure on new community facilities and public infrastructure, along with continual maintenance of those facilities already in existence, is a reflection of the commitment and pride we all take in our Shire.

In recognition of this, provision has been made to again allocate funds into Council's Recreation Facility Reserve, which will assist Council in meeting the future financial obligations associated with the proposed Southern Cross Recreation Precinct Redevelopment Project.

I invite any persons with queries regarding matters contained within the Budget document, to contact their local Councillor or a member of Council's Management Team.

I would also like to take the opportunity to remind the community of the up coming Council Elections, to be held on Saturday 17th October 2009, prior to which, Council will be conducting a workshop/information evening for the public to participate and perhaps gain an insight into what becoming a Councillors is all about.

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors, and would also like to thank all staff of the Yilgarn Shire for their ongoing commitment to the operation, administration and development of our Shire for the benefit of you, our Community.

Cr Ramolo Patroni OAM JP, Shire President

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PROPERTY VALUATIONS

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 2009/2010 Budget provides for a 10.25% increase overall.

Minimum Rates

The Minimum Rate for both GRV and UV rated properties has been elevated to a more realistic level of \$330.00 and ensures reasonable contribution toward Council's operations from all properties.

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. Local Government must rate at more than twice the lowest rate to obtain equity in revenues raised.

Adoption of Rates in the Dollar varying from those approved by the Minister for Local Government.

Council advised it's intention to impose a Differential Rate on various rating categories within the Shire of Yilgarn, at which time, estimated Rates in the Dollar were published for consideration. At the time of adopting the Budget, Council considered alternative Rates in the Dollar more applicably aligned to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), representing cost fluctuations applicable to all sectors in Australia to the twelve month period ended 31 March 2009.

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.

Concerns or complaints?

If any ratepayer has concerns regarding their Rates Account, they are more than welcome to contact Council's Rates and Revenue Officer, Joanne Guerini or the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Adam Seiler, on 9049-1001.

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

LOAN INDEBTEDNESS

The total principal amount owing by the Shire of Yilgarn
at 30th June 2008 \$203,223.93
at 30th June 2009 \$166,955.38

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 overpaid, should the Valuer General reduce a Valuation). Under no circumstances can persons leave their rates unpaid until the result of an objection is known.

UNPAID RATES

Persons with arrears rates as at the 30th June 2009 would have already received a notice of intention to summons from Council's recovery agents, Austral Mercantile, 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 significantly 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 Clerk, sooner rather than later, in an effort to establish an agreement for repayment, in preference to recovery via other methods.

DISCOUNT ON EARLY RATES PAYMENTS

A 5% discount is offered to all ratepayers on land-rates received, prior to the due date of

ADMINISTRATION FEES

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

CUSTOMER PAYMENT FACILITIES

EFTPOS:

Council is pleased to remind ratepayers that payments can be made by Cash, Cheque or via EFTPOS, either 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.

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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 5.4%), calculated daily on all overdue rates instalments and on rates outstanding on properties unpaid and not participating in a formal rates instalment plan.

FORMAL INSTALLMENT PLANS

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 2009 and 2010, whilst the four instalments are due on the 2009, 2009, 2010 and 2010. Reminder notices will be automatically generated to persons taking up this option.

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 \$195.00 per annum for GRV Residential/Industrial properties and to \$210.00 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.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Miscellaneous works and services contained within the Budget include:

| | |
|--|---------------|
| 1. Public Relations and Support to Community Groups | \$ 26,000 |
| 2. Community Safety Audit and Crime Prevention Strategies | \$ 16,840 |
| 3. Relocation of the SX Refuse Disposal Site and establishment of a Waste Transfer Station | \$ 90,000 |
| 4. Community Arts Projects and Performances / Community Funding Programme | \$ 34,700 |
| 5. Southern Cross Town Drainage | \$ 43,000 |
| 6. <i>Community Centre:</i> | |
| Build a new Storeroom on side of building (Royalties to Regions) | \$ 60,000 |
| Replacement of Stage Curtain | \$ 20,000 |
| 7. <i>Sports Complex:</i> | |
| Extension of the Lounge Area to more than double the size, able to be completed with funding from the Australian Government's Nation Building Programme | \$ 100,000 |
| 8. Heavy Plant and Equipment Replacement | \$ 1,143,000 |
| 9. <i>Airport Redevelopment:</i> | |
| Terminal Construction (Regional Airports Development Scheme / Royalties to Regions) | \$ 135,000 |
| RFDS/Ambulance Shed | \$ 30,000 |
| Resurfacing of the main runway (Remote Aerodrome Safety Programme / Council) | \$ 99,992 |
| Taxiway and Apron Reconstruction (Remote Aerodrome Safety Programme / Council) | \$ 113,847 |
| Turning Node Sealing and Extension (Remote Aerodrome Safety Programme / Council) | \$ 42,375 |
| Infrastructure Works (Pre-Development) | \$ 35,786 |
| 10. <i>Townscape Projects:</i> | |
| Polaris Lake Walk Trail | \$ 42,000 |
| Purchase and install entrance statement signs for outlying communities | \$ 7,500 |
| Paint Headframe | \$ 5,000 |
| 11. A new Community Project suggested by you ?????? | |
| Why not put in a submission to the 2010/2011 Budget when Expressions of Interest are called from the Community. After all, it's your Budget, and it's what you make it! | \$ TBA |

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ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

An allocation of \$3.2 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 2020 scheme. One other source of Road funding is the Federal Government's Roads to Recovery 2 Program, which commenced from 1 July 2005.

Some of the major projects during 2008/2009 are as follows:

| PROJECT | BUDGET | FUNDING |
|---|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Moorine South Road (Construction) | \$ 413,394 | MRWA / Council |
| Bodallin North Road (Construction) | \$ 229,748 | MRWA / Council |
| Bodallin North Road (Sealing) | \$ 38,301 | MRWA / Council |
| Koolyanobbing Road (Sealing) | \$ 44,427 | MRWA / Council |
| Dulyalbin Road (Gravel) | \$ 61,590 | Roads to Recovery |
| Southern Cross South Road (Gravel) | \$ 151,094 | Roads to Recovery |
| Emu Fence Road (Gravel) | \$ 144,193 | Roads to Recovery / Council |
| Bodallin Bin Road (Sealing) | \$ 88,895 | Roads to Recovery |
| Bodallin South Road (Gravel) | \$ 63,921 | Roads to Recovery |
| Noongaar North Road (Gravel) | \$ 62,863 | Roads to Recovery |
| Dual-Use Footpaths | \$ 97,429 | Council |
| Community Assistance Program | \$ 3,000 | Council |
| Tree Planting Program | \$ 2,529 | Council |
| Bennett Road (Gravel) | \$ 28,516 | Council |
| Beaton Road (Gravel) | \$ 71,669 | Council |
| Ivey Road (Gravel) | \$ 60,532 | Council |
| Old Marvel Loch Road (Gravel) | \$ 29,899 | Council |
| Infrastructure Maintenance (Unclassified) | \$ 105,000 | Council |
| Infrastructure Maintenance | \$ 1,080,000 | Council |
| Verge Maintenance and Tree Pruning | \$ 25,000 | Council |
| Street Lights—townsites | \$ 29,000 | Council |

DISABILITY ACCESS INCLUSION PLAN

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.

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WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Council's operations can be broken up by areas of Function and Activity, previously known as Schedules. In an effort to identify where Council's funds are being expended, the following information illustrates each function of Council:

General Purpose Funding – 2%

This area relates to the cost of Levying Rates, as well as the administration of General Purpose Government Grants.

Governance – 3%

Also referred to as the cost of democracy, this area includes costs associated with support to Council's elected members and Council Meetings, conduct of Council Elections, as well as Miscellaneous Subscriptions and Memberships Council is subject to.

Law Order & Public Safety—3%

This area includes the cost of Animal and Wild Dog Control and Fire Prevention/Control. The operational costs associated with Council maintaining its Bush Fire fleet are met by the Fire and Emergency Services Authority, through the Emergency Services Levy (ESL).

Health—2%

The Health expenditure budget relates primarily to the provision of a full-time resident Doctor's in Southern Cross, by Council, as well as the maintenance of the Southern Cross Medical Centre. Council also employs the services of a full-time Environmental Health Officer to ensure public health issues are maintained at an acceptable level.

Education and Welfare – 3%

Council is responsible for the Operational Management and Coordination of the Southern Cross Telecentre in addition to the Senior Citizens Centre. Other areas of expenditure covered under the umbrella of Education and Welfare include the Playgroup and Yilgarn Occasional Child Care Centre.

Housing – 2%

This schedule identifies the cost of providing housing to some employees of Council, in an effort to attract and retain professional staff.

Community Amenities – 4%

This programme includes costs associated with refuse collection, recycling and disposal of waste at Council's five refuse disposal sites located throughout the Shire.

Recreation and Culture – 9%

This programme represents a significant portion of Council's resources, and covers the cost of maintenance to all community halls and recreation centres, Southern Cross Swimming Pool, maintenance of all parks, gardens and ovals, library facilities, cultural activities and FM Radio/Television re-broadcasting services.

Transport – 43%

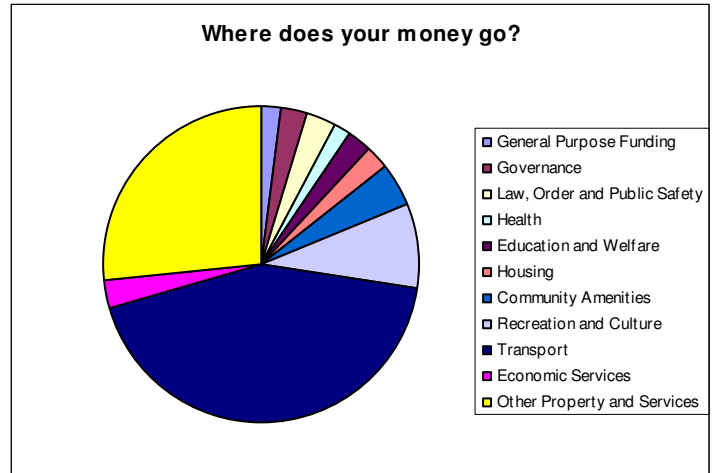
By far the most significant area of expenditure, the Transport section includes maintenance and construction of roads, drainage, footpaths, street lighting, maintenance and upkeep of the Southern Cross Airport as well as the timely replacement of Council's Heavy Construction Equipment.

Economic Services – 3%

Expenditure within the programme relates to Rural Services, Tourism and Area Promotion, Building Control, Landcare, Skeleton Weed Control, Economic Development, Domestic Services and the provision of Standpipes throughout the Shire.

Other property & services—26%

Other Property and services houses income and expenditure relative to a 'whole of organisation' approach. It includes public works overheads, plant operation costs, and the cost of Administration which is re-allocated as well as other unclassified expenditure not attributable to any other area of Council's operations. Furthermore, this area also incorporates all transfers to and from Council's Reserve Accounts.



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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 2009 and thereafter to keep these firebreaks clear of all flammable material until 31 March 2010. 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 2009.

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 2009 to 31 October 2009 and 2 March 2010 to 15 April 2010

(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 2009 to 1 March 2010

(Note: Permits to burn stubble from the previous seasons crop will not be issued until 2 March 2010)

By order of the Council.

PETER R CLARKE
Chief Executive Officer

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PENSIONER & SENIOR RATES REBATE/DEFERMENT

Pensioners who meet the eligibility criteria below, are entitled to claim a rebate of up to 50% off the current years rates, or may defer payment of those rates.

Persons who hold a Seniors Card issued by the Office of Seniors Interests **and** a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card are entitled to the same level of concession as a pensioner.

Seniors who meet the following eligibility criteria are entitled to claim a rebate of up to 25%, where the rebate is limited to a maximum amount.

Eligibility Criteria:

To be eligible for concessions under the *Rates and Charges (Rebates and Deferrals) Act 1992*, an applicant must -

1. Be the owner and reside in the property on 1 July of the rating year;
2. If a Pensioner, either:
 - be in receipt of a pension and hold a pensioner concession card or State concession card; or
 - hold both a Seniors Card issued by the Office of Seniors Interests and a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card; orIf a Senior, hold a Seniors Card issued by the Office of Seniors Interests;
3. Register your entitlement with Council or the Water Corporation (concessions only apply once your application is received and registered).

A pro-rata rebate may be available from the date of registration to Pensioners and Seniors who become eligible after 1 July of the rating year. Please contact Council where you have rate arrears outstanding on the property and you meet the eligibility criteria. You may be able to enter into an arrangement that entitles you to a rebate or deferment.

When a ratepayer registered as an entitled pensioner/senior ceases to be an entitled pensioner/senior ie: no longer resides or owns the property or is no longer in receipt of a concession card as stated above, that person shall give notice to Council and the registration will be cancelled.

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 EMERGENCY INFORMATION HOTLINE



9487 8777

Residents are reminded that the Shire of Yilgarn Emergency Information Hotline service is available. For all road closure, vehicle movement, bushfire and harvest ban information please call 9487 8777. This service is updated as required. For continuous updates on road closures within the Yilgarn district, ask to be placed on the Shire of Yilgarn's direct fax information service line.

Further information is available as follows:-

- ❖ Road-use enquiries/reporting of road damage—please call Mr Robert Bosenberg (Manager of 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 of Environmental Health & Building Services) on 0407 491 027.

Who to Contact?

Council's Management Team

Chief Executive Officer
Mr Peter R Clarke

Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr Adam M Seiler

Manager of Works
Mr Robert J Bosenberg

**Manager of 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

Our new Web-site: www.yilgarn.wa.gov.au

Members of Council

Shire President

Cr P R (Romolo) Patroni OAM JP

Deputy Shire President

Cr Ray Della Bosca

Councillors

Cr D G (David) Auld

Cr K J (Ken) Fairless

Cr G V (Gary) Kenward

Cr D J (Dave) Pasini

Cr O T (Onida) Truran

Council meets on the third Friday of every month in the Council Chambers, Antares Street, Southern Cross, commencing at 2pm (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 a member of Council's Management Team or one of our friendly Administration Staff.

EARLY RATES PAYMENT INCENTIVE SCHEME

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

First Prize:

Three Nights (3) accommodation in a Superior one (1) Bedroom, One (1) Bathroom Apartment at Assured Ascot Quays Apartment Hotel ,Perth , valued at nearly \$1,000.00



Go for it, get in early to secure your chance to enjoy that luxury break .

Second Prize:



Fancy a bit of retail therapy? Why not treat yourself to a bit of local indulgence in Southern Cross with \$300 to spend at any business of your choice within the Southern Cross CBD. Your prize, your choice. (Businesses) must be elected prior to voucher production)

Third Prize:



Planning a night out with that someone special but just can't get around to it? Here's your chance to be our guest. Enjoy an intimate dinner for two at one of the four Restaurants located in Southern Cross. To make it all the more enjoyable, we'll even give you \$150 to spend. Bon Appétit!

Simply fill out your details below and return this section with your rates notice. The prize will be drawn after the discount closing date of Wednesday

Assessment Number: _____ Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____