

2024/25 BUDGET NEWS

Hello everyone,

Let's talk about the 8% rate rise. This was not an easy decision for Council. But it was necessary to exercise prudent financial and asset management.

The Town's most significant role is managing our extensive physical assets – roads, footpaths, drainage, buildings, plant and equipment. This includes Aqualife, Leisurelife, the Library, Administration building, Works depot, clubrooms, parks and reserves, playgrounds, outdoor sporting facilities and public realm infrastructure (lighting, seating, signs, bike racks and artworks).

The majority of these physical assets are ageing. Some are not universally accessible. Some are beyond their useful life, meaning that although they continue to be used, they can no longer meet current or future demands on them. They need increasing maintenance, renewal and eventual replacement.

Whole of life asset management is critical to sustain the level of service our community needs and deserves. The cost of managing them has increased significantly in recent years. Not managing them sustainably is a risk and a liability. This is why the capital works program is the largest component of the Town's annual budget.

This year, following years of advocacy securing external funding contributions, the Town needs to commence construction of some of the largest infrastructure projects in our history, including the Edward Millen Park upgrade and the McCallum Park Active Zone.

Council has supported our community since 2019 and through the global pandemic with no or low rate increases. From 2019 to 2023, Council adopted rate rises totalling only 2.4%, compared to CPI increases totalling 18.8% in the same period. Such decisions always come at a cost. Eventually budget repair is needed to ensure we can sustainably manage our assets, as well as continue to deliver essential services like waste management.

We rely on these assets and essential services to help us enjoy healthy lifestyles, and live in a safe, connected and inclusive community, which is valuable for us all. Read on, to learn more about what's in store for the Town this year.

Karen Vernon
Mayor



Mayor



Karen
Vernon

Jarrah ward



Cr Bronwyn Iffe
Deputy Mayor



Cr Daniel
Minson



Cr Jesse
Hamer



Cr Sky
Croeser

Banksia ward



Cr Claire
Anderson



Cr Lindsay
Miles



Cr Peter
Devereux



Cr Peter
Melrosa



What's in the budget this year?

We're making upgrades and improvements across the Town, to ensure Victoria Park is a dynamic place for everyone.



Parks and Public Spaces

We know you love our local green spaces. This year we've committed more than \$6.4 million to improving parks and public spaces around the Town.

Arts, Culture and Community

We're connecting our community with over \$300,000 committed to events and activations across the Town.



1 Stiles Griffith Reserve

As part of the revitalisation of the Burswood Station East precinct, Stiles-Griffith Reserve will undergo an upgrade to improve public safety and connectivity to the Burswood East Train Station.

2 McCallum Park Active Area

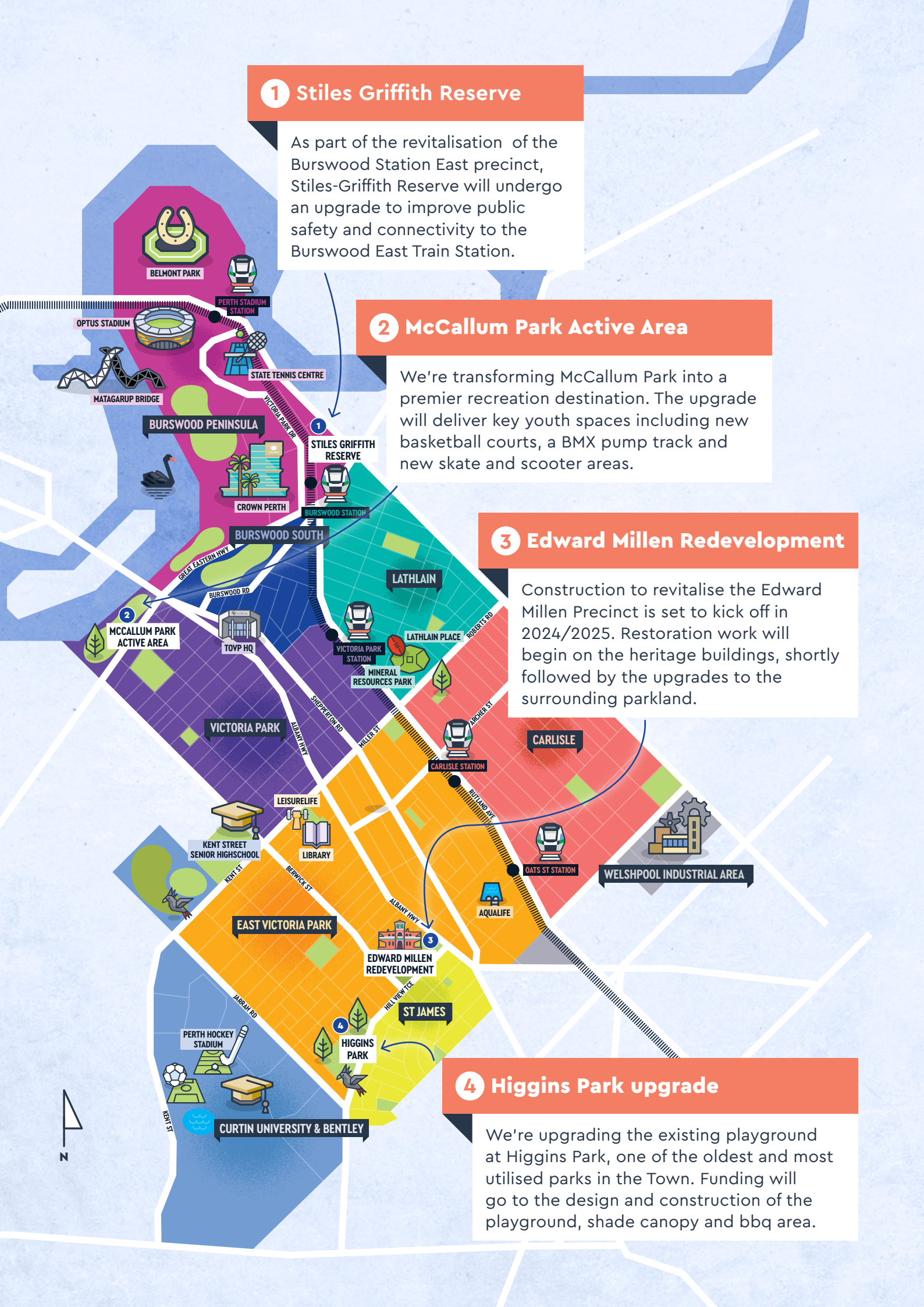
We're transforming McCallum Park into a premier recreation destination. The upgrade will deliver key youth spaces including new basketball courts, a BMX pump track and new skate and scooter areas.

3 Edward Millen Redevelopment

Construction to revitalise the Edward Millen Precinct is set to kick off in 2024/2025. Restoration work will begin on the heritage buildings, shortly followed by the upgrades to the surrounding parkland.

4 Higgins Park upgrade

We're upgrading the existing playground at Higgins Park, one of the oldest and most utilised parks in the Town. Funding will go to the design and construction of the playground, shade canopy and bbq area.





FOGO

We're rolling out the FOGO three-bin system across the Town in mid-2025. FOGO provides residents with more options for waste separation, aiming to improve recovery rates, increase diversion from landfill and reduce costs of processing material.

Sustainability

We're expanding our sustainability infrastructure at key Town locations. We're installing electric vehicle charging stations at Aqualife and Administration, and a new solar and battery storage system at the Library and Depot.



Local Business Support

We're strengthening our support for local business, through grant funding, Business Awards and Business Breakfast, and destination marketing campaigns for Lunar New Year and Shop Local.

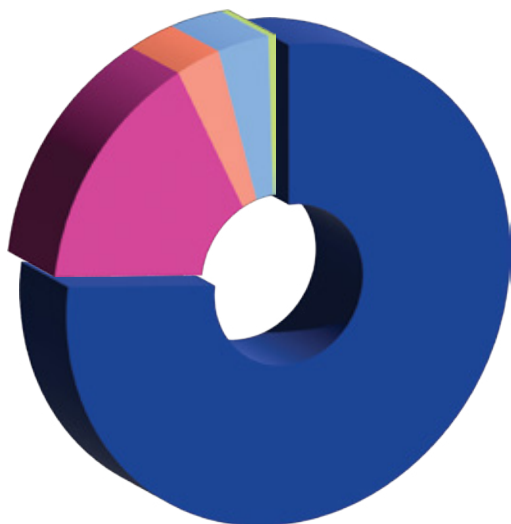
Urban Forest Program

Our award-winning Urban Forest Program is targeting 20% canopy cover through our Leafy Streets Program. We're working to plant 1,000 new trees in 2024/2025 to increase canopy and improve ecology and biodiversity across the Town.



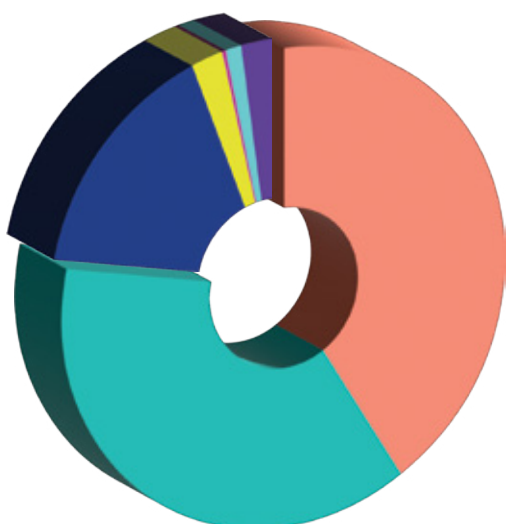
Where is my money going?

Revenue



- ♥ Rates \$53m
- ♥ Fees and charges \$10.9m
- ♥ Grants, subsidies and contributions \$2.2m
- ♥ Interest revenue \$2.3m
- ♥ Other revenue \$0.4m

Expenses



- ♥ Employee costs \$29.2m
- ♥ Materials and contracts \$26.3m
- ♥ Depreciation on non-current assets \$11.1m
- ♥ Utility charges \$1.7m
- ♥ Finance costs \$0.2m
- ♥ Insurance \$0.7m
- ♥ Other expenditure \$1.5m

Investing in our assets



Roads
\$7,819,194



Land & buildings
\$16,629,340



Plant & machinery
\$879,500



Furniture & equipment
\$950,000



Other infrastructure
\$550,000



Parks & reserves
\$6,404,000



Drainage
\$370,000



How are my Rates calculated?

The Town's rates are determined when Council sets its annual budget. The rates you pay are a proportionate share of what is needed by Council to provide local services and facilities.

Prior to adopting the budget, there is a public comment period to give residents and ratepayers an opportunity to express their views about the proposed budget.

What is the Gross Rental Value?

Rates are calculated based on Gross Rental Value (GRV) which is supplied by the Valuer Generals Office. Gross Rental Value is the gross annual rental income that a property might reasonably be expected to earn annually if it were rented. This figure is provided to us by Landgate.

Every three years Landgate undertakes a major review of all GRVs.



Check your trees and report signs of Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB)



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

Learn more:
agric.wa.gov.au/borer

