

Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council

Revenue Statement



Policy Number:	KASC-STAT-006
Responsible Manager:	Executive Manager Corporate and Financial Services
Legislation:	Local Government Act 2009 Local Government Regulation 2012
Approval Date:	24 June 2025

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Revenue Statement has been prepared in accordance with section 104(5)(a)(iv) of the Local Government Act 2009 and section 169(2)(b) and 172 of the Local Government Regulation 2012.
- 1.2. This statement outlines and explains the revenue raising measures adopted by the Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council in the preparation of its Budget for the 2025–2026 financial year.
- 1.3. It is not intended that this Revenue Statement reproduce all related policies and reference documents. Related policies and reference documents will be referred to where appropriate and will take precedence should clarification be required.

2. Terms and Definitions

- 2.1. In this policy:

Council Means Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council

3. Acronyms and Abbreviations

- 3.1. In this policy:

KASC: Means Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council

4. Legislative Requirements

- 4.1. Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2009 requires that a local government must comply with the requirements prescribed under a regulation regarding the financial management documents which includes an annual budget and a revenue statement.
- 4.2. Section 169 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 requires that a local government must prepare a revenue statement each financial year. Section 172 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 requires that a revenue statement must state the following:
 - a. If the local government levies differential general rates:
 - i. The rating categories for rateable land in the local government area; and
 - ii. A description of each rating category; and
 - b. If the local government levies special rates or charges for a joint government activity—a summary of the terms of the joint government activity; and
 - c. If the local government fixes a cost-recovery fee—the criteria used to decide the amount of the cost-recovery fee; and
 - d. If the local government conducts a business activity on a commercial basis the criteria used to decide the amount of the charges for the activity's goods and services.
- 4.3. Section 172(2) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 requires that the revenue statement for a financial year must include the following information for the financial year:
 - a. An outline and explanation of the measures that the local government has adopted for raising revenue, including an outline and explanation of:
 - i. The rates and charges to be levied in the financial year; and
 - ii. The concessions for rates and charges to be granted in the financial year;
 - b. Whether the local government has made a resolution limiting an increase of rates and charges.

5. Revenue Raising Measures

The principal revenue raising measures adopted by the Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council for the - 2025-2026 financial year are:

5.1. General Rates

Council does not presently have the ability to apply general rates, due to there being no rateable land capable of being subject to such a charge.

5.1.1. Limitation on Increase in Rates and Charges:

As stated in paragraph 5.1 above, Council does not have the ability to levy general rates. As a consequence, Council will not be passing any resolution pursuant to section 116 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, to limit any increase of general rates or charges.

5.2. General Levy

Council will charge general levy to support local government infrastructure and operations as identified in Council's "Fees and Charges Schedule" and "Commercial Charges Schedule".

5.3. Utility Charge (in Lieu of Rent)

Council will charge a "Utility Charge in Lieu of rent" for all residential properties that are not charged a rental payment from Council,

or the Department of Housing and Public Works as identified in "Fees and Charges Schedule" and "Commercial Charges Schedule".

5.4. Utility Charges

Utility charges are made and levied for the supply of sewerage, water, and garbage services. Utility charges are levied to all land within Kowanyama, irrespective of whether the land is vacant or occupied, and whether or not it is rateable land.

Full details of the utility charges to be levied are available in "Fees and Charges Schedule" and "Commercial Charges Schedule".

In setting its utility charges for water, sewerage and waste management, Council maintains a user pays policy whereby the full costs of providing such services are paid by the users of those.

In accordance with section 94 of the Local Government Act 2009 and section 99 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 Council has resolved to raise and levy the following utility charges:-

5.5. Sewerage Utility Charges

Sewerage utility charges are levied in respect of all land where Council deems that sewerage reticulation can be provided to such land to cover the costs of operation, maintenance and capital expenditure associated with the sewerage system.

In respect of improvements erected during the year, sewerage charges shall be levied proportionally for the unexpired part of the year from the date Council determines the improvement is ready for occupation.

In circumstances where dwellings are built over the boundary line of two or more parcels and the ratepayer proves that this is the case, Council shall levy one sewerage access charge as if it were one parcel. In the situation that Council is currently charging one access charge for two parcels with a dwelling built over the boundary line, there will be no need for the ratepayer to provide further proof.

For those properties that share both residential and non-residential structures, the premises shall be considered mixed use premises attracting both unit and charge per unit factors for each type of structure.

The following sewerage charges will be levied on properties within the Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council local government area per pedestal:

- Residential Dwelling \$1,526.10 and
- Non-Residential \$4,824.40.

Full details of the sewerage utility charges to be levied are available in the "Fees and Charges Schedule" and "Commercial Charges Schedule".

5.6. Garbage Collection Utility Charge

Garbage Collection Utility Charges for land or structures where Council deems that a service will be supplied for each structure, residence, flat, strata title unit, will be charged per annum:

- Residential Dwelling \$366.70; and
- Non-Residential \$1,372.30

Full details of the garbage collection utility charges to be levied are available in the "Fees and Charges Schedule" and "Commercial Charges Schedule".

The service will be supplied to premises in the waste area which is defined as an area in which Council or Council's contractors provide a solid waste collection service.

In respect of improvements erected during the year, waste collection utility charges shall be levied proportionally for the unexpired part of the year from the date council determines the improvement is ready for occupation.

5.7. Water Utility Charges

Water utility charges are levied for land where Council deems that water can be supplied from the reticulated system and are to be levied irrespective of whether the land is vacant or occupied, and whether or not it is rateable land.

Council will levy utility charges for supplying water services on a two-part tariff system comprising of:

- a. Annual Service Charge - to cover Council's fixed costs in supplying water to the Water Areas (i.e. the costs which do not vary with the amount of water reticulated including interest and redemption charges incurred by Council) and taking into account asset upgrades, replacements and provision of future needs of the water infrastructure.; and
- Commercial/Industrial Water Usage Charge - for each kilolitre of water consumed in excess of 5,000 kilolitres, to cover Council's variable costs of operating, maintaining and managing the water supply system.

Council believes that it is equitable for all users and potential users to contribute to the costs of the water supply system by way of an access charge and consumption charge. The consumption charge for water consumed conforms to the "user pays" principle.

The Two-Tier Tariff Water Charges a Full details of the water utility charges to be levied are available in "Fees and Charges Schedule" and "Commercial Charges Schedule".

In circumstances where dwellings are built over the boundary line of two or more parcels and the ratepayer proves that this is the case, Council shall levy one water access charge as if it were one parcel. In the situation that Council is currently charging one access charge for two parcels with a dwelling built over the boundary line, there will be no need for the ratepayer to provide further proof.

In respect of improvements erected during the year, water charges shall be levied proportionally for the unexpired part of the year from the date council determines the improvement is ready for occupation. The tiered water usage charging system provides an incentive for water conservation.

5.7.1. Annual Service Charge

For the purposes of levying the Fixed Access Charge, each property will be assessed on the basis of location and whether it is used for residential, commercial or industrial purposes. Large commercial or industrial users are defined as those properties specifically identified as being high water consumers.

A residential access charge will be levied on each dwelling which in the case of flats or units, will be per each flat or unit.

The following water annual service charges will be levied on properties within the Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council local government area per structure or unit/flat:

- Residential Dwelling \$1,526.10
- Commercial \$4,824.40; and
- Industrial \$5,926.20.

Full details of the water annual service charges to be levied are available in the “Fees and Charges Schedule” and “Commercial Charges Schedule”.

For those properties that share both residential and non-residential structures, the premises shall be considered mixed use premises attracting both residential, and non-residential or non-standard access charges for each type of structure.

5.7.2. Water Usage Charge

A water usage or consumption charge which covers the variable costs of supplying water to excessive water of over 5,000 kilolitres to non-residential consumers (e.g., wages, chemicals, electricity, maintenance) with such charges to be on a two-tiered basis.

The following water usage charges will be levied on properties within the Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council local government area per non-residential connection for each kilolitre in excess of 5,000 kilolitres is \$3.65 a kilolitre (excl GST).

Full details of the water annual service charges to be levied are available in the “Fees and Charges Schedule” and “Commercial Charges Schedule”.

6. Cost-Recovery and Other Fees and Charges

Council's adopted fees and charges include a mixture of cost recovery and commercial user-pays fees. The cost-recovery (regulatory) charges are identified as such in Council's fees and charges schedule and have been determined with reference to the relevant legislation and where appropriate recover the cost of performing the function or service. Council's fees and charges register contains full details of fees and charges adopted by Council is available on council's website.

6.1. Criteria for Fixing of Cost Recovery Fees

Cost-recovery fees are fixed pursuant to Section 97 of the Local Government Act 2009 and must not exceed the cost of providing the service for which the fee has been fixed. Such fees are therefore broadly based on the user pays principle (except where Council, at its discretion, decides to subsidise any fee or charge as a community service obligation) and take into account the following:

- a. The nature of the service provided by the Council and in respect of which the fee has been fixed e.g. issuing an approval, consent, license, registration or other authority, giving information kept under a Local Government Act 2009, seizing property or animals under a Local Government Act 2009; or performance of a function imposed on the Council under the Building Act 1975 or the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002 or Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018.
- b. The amount of direct costs such as labour, plant and materials involved in the provision of the specific service for which the fee has been fixed e.g., the cost of labour and vehicle hire for annual inspection and licensing of food premises or the cost of stationery or electronic media for distribution of copies of Local Laws, Minutes, Budgets, Annual Financial Statements etc.
- c. The amount of general Council overheads consumed in the provision of the service for which the fee has been fixed e.g., office accommodation, electricity, IT facilities
- d. The hours during which the service is performed e.g., the seizure of animals outside of normal work hours (at night or on weekends).
- e. Whether the provision of the service involves the supply of an item e.g., a dog registration tag or dangerous dog collar, or the provision of sustenance e.g., feeding of impounded animals.

Full details of the Council's Fees and Charges to be levied are available in the "Fees and Charges Schedule" and "Commercial Charges Schedule".

Fees and Cost-recovery charges will be reviewed annually having regard to the criteria for fixing of cost-recovery charges specified elsewhere herein.

6.2. Application of Code of Competitive Conduct – Council Business Activities

Where an activity has been nominated as compliant with the code of competitive conduct, the principles of full cost pricing have been applied.

7. Other Revenue

7.1. Grants and Subsidies

Grants and subsidies paid by other levels of government towards Council's general operational costs e.g., Financial Assistance Grant, or for Specific Capital Projects.

7.2. Interest on Investment

Interest received from the investment of Council funds.

8. Time within which Rates and Charges must be Paid

8.1. All rates and charges must be paid by the date shown on the rate notice, which is a date that is at least thirty (30) days after the day the rate notice is issued.

9. Interest on Overdue Rates and Charges

All Rates and Charges outstanding at the end of the discount period are deemed to be overdue rates and Council will apply interest at the rate of 8.00% per annum calculated on daily rests from the day after the Rates and Charges become overdue.

In accordance with section 133 of the Local Government Regulation 2012:

- For the 12 months ending 30 June 2026, Council will charge interest on overdue rates from the day which is 21 days after the day on which they became overdue and at the rate of 8.00% (or such other rate as may be determined pursuant to Section 133 of the Local Government Regulation 2012) compounded on daily rests; and
- For the 12 months ending 30 June 2026, Council will charge interest in accordance with (a) above, in respect of overdue rates which are subject to an agreement with the property owner to pay regular instalments to avoid rate recovery action.

10. Refunds of Rates and Charges Payments

10.1. Council will only refund payments of rates and charges if the property has a credit balance. There will be no refunds of payments if the property has a debit balance.

10.2. Any Council errors/mistakes in levying rates or charges will only be back dated for the current financial year with a supplementary rate notice.

11. Collection of Outstanding Rates and Charges

- 11.1. Council requires payment of rates and charges within the specified period, and it is Council's policy to pursue the collection of outstanding rates and charges diligently but with due concern for the financial hardship faced by some members of the community.
- 11.2. To this end, Council has established administrative processes which allow for the payment of rates and charges by periodic payments and for the selection of various options (including legal action) for the recovery of debt, as set out in the attached Debt Recovery Policy.

12. Payment in Advance

- 12.1. Council accepts payments in advance. Interest is not payable on any credit balances held. Rates discount will apply in the event that the entire account has been paid in full by the discount due date.

13. Other Remission and Deferrals

- 13.1. Other remission requests, or rate deferral requests, will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

14. Policy Review

- 14.1. The policy is to be reviewed in accordance with the Policy Framework.
- 14.2. Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council reserves the right to vary, replace, or terminate this policy from time to time.

15. Approval

- 15.1. This policy was duly authorised by Council on 24 June 2025 as Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council's Revenue Statement and shall hereby supersede any previous policies of the same intent.