



Fees & Charges 2026-27



A guide to changes in the
Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire
Council Fees & Charges 2026-27

A COMMUNITY GUIDE ABOUT CHANGES TO OUR FEES AND CHARGES EFFECTIVE JULY 2026

Council has prepared this booklet to help everyone in the community understand what fees and charges are changing, why the changes are happening, and how to get help if you need it.



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters across Woorabinda and pay our respects to Elders past and present. We recognise the strength and resilience of our community and the importance of caring for Country, family and culture.

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Overview

Council has reviewed all fees and charges for the 2025–2026 financial year and has made changes to the cost of some of Council’s services. The new fees and charges will come into effect on 1 July 2026.

Some fees remain the same, some have increased, a small number have decreased, and a small number of new fees have been introduced to cover the real cost of providing a service and where legal requirements affect the cost.



Why do some fees for outside businesses cost more?

Some fees will cost more for groups and organisations from outside the Shire. This will keep things fair for residents and businesses while covering the extra costs of providing services to non-local groups and businesses. We have applied a “user-pays” approach to these fees and charges.

How are fees decided?

Fees are reviewed each year to reflect the real cost of running services and feedback from the community. Council’s aim for the fees and charges is to create a balance of cost recovery for the services provided to the community and others, while making sure our residents have access to the best level of service we can offer.

What if I cannot afford a fee?

Please speak with someone at Council. We will listen and look at the options that will work for you, wherever possible.

When will the fees change?

Changes take effect from 1 July 2026.

Why are fees and charges changing?

It’s important for Council to spend wisely on behalf of the community, to get the best value for money when buying equipment, fuel, materials and services. When the cost of these items rises, or when the State Government changes requirements or fees that Council must follow, we need to include for this in our fees and charges’ review. (Examples of State Government areas that impact local government include food safety, animal management, planning and waste, among others.)

We also need to consider the cost of keeping our community facilities safe, open and in good condition, and include the cost of maintenance of those facilities over time. By taking these into account, we’re not just striking a fair set of fees and charges for the Woorabinda community and visitors to our Shire, we’re looking after our buildings, parks and equipment so we can keep providing services now and into the future. and in the future.

How to read this booklet

We’ve used a simple way to make it easy to see where changes to our fees and charges have been made:

- * NEW - a new fee or service
- ▲ Increase - fees have gone up
- ▼ Decrease - fees have gone down
- Same - fee has not changed

LICENCES AND REGISTRATIONS

– FOOD BUSINESSES

Food licensing is important because it helps keep community members safe. Making sure food is stored, cooked and sold correctly prevents illness and protects families, Elders and children.

Making sure fees cover all aspects of food licencing ensures Council can continue providing essential inspections, monitoring and support to all food businesses in Woorabinda.

Several licence fees for food businesses have increased or been newly introduced. Category 2 food business application fees have risen significantly, from **\$350 to \$905**, and new fees now apply for short-term food businesses, food safety programs, amendments, and audits.

These changes reflect the need to cover the real cost of inspections, food safety assessments and compliance activities.

Application fees:

- Category 1 – no change to application fee
- ▲ Category 2 – increased from \$350 to \$905 (application only, not including safety program).
- * Short-term food business licence (up to 52 days per year): \$102.
- * Including Food Safety Program: Category 1 \$1,275; Category 2 \$1,601; Short-term \$775.

Renewals and other fees:

- Annual renewals \$120 (Category 1 and 2).
- * Restoring a lapsed licence: Category 1 \$332; Category 2 \$497.
- * Amendments: details \$112; premises location - refer to relevant category application fee; minor alteration - 25% of application fee; major alteration - \$75 of application fee.
- * Food Safety Program accreditation \$696; amendment \$142/hour (maximum fee \$696).
- * Audits, non-conformance audits and additional inspections \$124 /hour.

Fees for Roadside Vending, both mobile and stationary

- Vending application fee (for stationary, per existing approved site) – no change to fee
- Vending annual licence renewal fee (local businesses established in Shire) – no change to fee
- * Vending annual licence renewal fee (Businesses established outside the Shire) – new fee of \$300
- * Vending 3-day fee \$96 per site
- * Vending 7-day fee \$192 per site

DEFINITIONS:

Category 1 - Businesses with breakfast preparation only (as part of accommodation activity), fruit and vegetable cutting only, ice-cream only, food vehicles and home based food businesses manufacturing non-potentially hazardous foods only, drinking water carrier and food stores with pieces or similar only (excluding short term food businesses)

Category 2 – Hotels, resorts, restaurants, clubs, supermarkets and similar media to large premises, takeaway food bars, cafes, bakeries, small convenience stores and similar small to medium premises, food vehicles and home based businesses manufacturing potentially hazardous food (excluding short term food businesses)

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT - REGISTRATIONS, POUND AND PERMITS

Animal management helps protect the safety and wellbeing of the whole community. Proper registration ensures dogs are identified, cared for and kept in safe conditions. Impoundment and regulated dog requirements help to reduce roaming dogs, prevent attacks, and support responsible pet ownership. These updated fees help Council manage risks and run the pound service safely and fairly.

There are new charges for regulated dogs (dangerous, restricted and menacing), including initial registration fees, renewal fees, compliance-related fees and charges for replacement signage. Pound release fees and daily sustenance fees have also increased, and a new surrender fee has been introduced.

Dog and cat registrations:

- Whole dog \$55; desexed \$20; Aged pensioners \$20/dog
Cats: whole \$50; spayed \$10.
- * Internal review of decision: \$45.



REGULATED DOGS (DECLARED DANGEROUS/ RESTRICTED/MENACING)

In Queensland, regulated dogs are prescribed under the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 and include restricted dogs, declared dangerous dogs and declared menacing dogs. It is important to understand that these animals are declared dangerous or menacing because they pose a risk to the safety of other animals, children and adults.

Regulated dogs may have attacked a person or other animals or might behave in an aggressive way that is frightening for people or pets. Keeping our community safe means being responsible about pet ownership and taking the steps that make sure your dog can't hurt anyone. Talk to our Animal Control Officer if you are unsure about permits, signs, tags, microchipping or any of the other important requirements for keeping a regulated dog that responsible pet owners follow.

- * Initial registration: Dangerous/Restricted \$585; Menacing \$425
- * Annual renewal (non-compliance): Dangerous/Restricted \$585; Menacing \$425
- * Annual renewal (kept in full compliance): Dangerous/Restricted \$293; Menacing \$180 (non-desexed) or \$145 (desexed)
- * Replacement signage / tags only available to owners of regulated dogs: At cost per item

POUND FEES

Pound fees have increased for second and third impoundments and the daily sustenance or cost to provide shelter and food, has risen. These changes reflect the cost of caring for animals, providing food, keeping the pound clean and safe, and ensuring animals are returned to owners responsibly.

The pound service plays an important role in community safety. It helps control roaming animals, prevents injury to people and other animals, and enables lost dogs and cats to be reunited with their families. Fees encourage responsible pet ownership and reduce repeated impoundments, supporting a safer community.

Keeping your animals securely inside your yard or on a lead makes Woorabinda a safer place for your pets and for our residents.



Pound Fees (continued)

Pound release - dogs and cats:

- First release fee if collected on the first day: \$0
- ▲ First release (not collected on the first day) \$76 + sustenance ((food and shelter)
- ▲ Second release \$166 + sustenance
- ▲ Third or later \$305 + sustenance
- ▲ Sustenance per day after first day: \$28.
- * Surrender of animal: \$112 (GST applies)

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND OFFICE SPACES

These spaces allow local groups, visiting services and programs to operate in a safe, professional environment. Charging external users helps ensure residents and organisations are not subsidising the cost of hosting visiting businesses, while keeping facilities accessible for community needs.

New fees apply to non-local users. These charges ensure that outside organisations contribute fairly to the upkeep of facilities used for community programs and services.

- Halls and Kangaroo Stadium hire - no change
- Opal Hall and Duaringa hall - a 25% concession for local community organisations and WASC residents
- Bonds for halls - no change
- * Small office spaces (shopping complex / IKC office) casual hire (entities outside WASC):
 - Half-day \$ 45
 - Full-day \$100

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE CENTRE (IKC)

The Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC) is a vital learning, cultural and digital space. It supports training, workshops, community programs and youth activities.

Updated fees help maintain equipment, air-conditioning, technology, power and cleaning, ensuring the IKC stays a safe and welcoming space for community learning.

- ▲ Computer Room – full day (8 hours) \$332.16; half day (4 hours) \$166.08; casual hourly rate \$43
- ▲ Training Room – full day (8 hours) \$103.80; half day (4 hours) \$51.90; casual hourly rate \$15.55



BLACKBOY OUTSTATION - ACCOMMODATION AND CAMPING

Blackboy Outstation is a valued community asset used for cultural activities, family gatherings, training, meetings and tourism. Updated commercial fees help maintain and improve the buildings, grounds, amenities and water/power services, ensuring the Outstation remains clean, safe and accessible for everyone, including future generations.

Commercial accommodation fees have increased by 25%, and new day-use fees apply. These changes support the cost of maintaining buildings, amenities, and cultural activity spaces. Local/non-commercial rates remain the same.

- Local/non-commercial accommodation – no change

Blackboy Outstation (continued)

Commercial Use accommodation 25% across all room types as below

- ▲ Camping (commercial): Unpowered site to \$31.25 (up to 4 people)
- ▲ Extra person to \$12.50
- * Day-use Adult \$2.50
- * Day-use Child \$2.50
- ▲ School use: Less than 30 people \$35 per day; more than 30 people \$60 per day
- ▲ Public use: less than 50 people: \$60 per day; more than 50 people \$150 per day



STAFF ACCOMMODATION (COUNCIL HOUSING)

Providing safe, stable housing ensures Council can attract and retain skilled staff who deliver essential services such as childcare, infrastructure maintenance, community safety, waste management and administration. These small adjustments reflect rising housing costs and ensure properties are properly maintained.

Council housing rents increased by 3%, helping maintain safe staff housing so essential services can continue operating.

- ▲ 3% increases to weekly rent and furnished surcharge in Woorabinda.
- ▲ Other towns: market rent (recalculated each lease) with increases limited to 10%; furnished surcharge 3%.



PLANT HIRE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES



These services support community events, transport, local projects and essential works. Updated fees ensure Council can maintain vehicles and equipment safely, cover fuel and repair costs, and provide reliable services to the community and local organisations. The reduced bus hire fee also makes transport more affordable for community groups.

Council bus hire decreased to \$150/day. New support and holding fees help ensure vehicles and equipment remain safe and reliable.

- ▼ Council bus hire - a 50% drop from \$300 to \$150 per day
- * New support service fee \$40/day if taken more than 200km from Woorabinda
- ▲ Bond increase to \$200 (covers cleaning and refuelling costs)

Town Truck Delivery Service (door to door delivery, excluding food items and perishable)

- Small: a fixed fee of \$70 – no change
- * Medium (maximum package size and weight of 100kg or 2sqm) \$140
- * Large (maximum package size and weight of 200kg or 2sqm) \$280
- * Holding fee \$50/day for each service
- ▲ BBQ trailer hire increased from \$55 to \$60/day
- ▲ BBQ trailer bond increase from \$55 to \$60.

MATERIALS AND COMMERCIAL WASTE

Sale of materials such as river sand and pea gravel, for example, supports local building, repairs and community projects. These updated fees help Council manage the increasing costs for transport, machinery, EPA compliance, site management and landfill operations. Sand and gravel fees are set to increased by 50% as shown below:

- ▲ Unwashed river sand \$97.50 / 0.5cbm
- ▲ Unwashed river sand \$165 / cbm
- ▲ Pea gravel \$211.85 / tonne
- ▲ Pea gravel \$187.50 / cbm

Waste management and material supply are essential for keeping the community healthy, clean and functioning. Proper waste disposal stops pollution, protects Country, and reduces health risks to people and wildlife.



Material and Commercial waste (continued)

The following changes apply to Commercial Waste fees only and do not apply to personal waste of residents and household rubbish collection.

- ▲ Recycling: 25% increase - Cardboard \$25/cbm; Household appliances \$91.87/ item
- ▲ Industrial recyclables: 33% increase - Uncontaminated concrete/bricks/bitumen \$120/tonne; Scrap Steel \$36.65/tonne
- ▲ General landfill: 3% increase -
 - Contaminated green waste \$101.95/tonne;
 - Commercial and industrial mixed waste \$283.25/tonne;
 - Construction and demolition mixed waste \$339.90/tonne
- Green waste and soil remain the same at no charge

Tyres - new/updated fees for the following categories, all others remain the same.

- * Bike or small car tyres \$23.50 /tyre;
- ▲ Bike or care tyre on rim \$23.50/tyre
- ▲ Tractor tyre smaller than 1m, grader \$172/tyre;
- ▲ Tractor tyre 1-2m or earthmoving tyre up to 1m \$254/tyre;
- All other tyres - Price on application



WATER AND POWER CONNECTIONS

Power connections are essential for safe living, supporting health, lighting, refrigeration, heating and cooling. Charging connection fees ensures Council can continue providing safe and compliant electrical connections that meet Queensland's energy standards and community needs.

The domestic house power connection fee has increased by 3%, reflecting higher material and installation costs.

▲ Domestic house power connection \$762.20 / connection

Safe and reliable water is vital for homes, businesses, community facilities and emergency services. Connecting properties to the network requires skilled work and high-quality materials.

Updated fees help ensure the water system remains reliable and properly maintained for everyone in Woorabinda.

Both residential and commercial water connection fees have increased by 3%, and the disconnection fee has also risen by 3%. These changes reflect rising labour, materials and infrastructure costs.

Water connection and disconnection fees increased by 3%, reflecting rising infrastructure costs. Domestic power connection fees rose by 3% to ensure safe installation and compliance.

- ▲ Water connections (Commercial premises) \$1390.50 / connection
- ▲ Water connections (Residential) \$1287.50 / connection
- ▲ Water disconnections \$618 / disconnection

TOWN PLANNING

Town planning ensures new buildings, land use changes, and developments happen safely, sustainably and in line with community expectations. Charging the actual cost ensures that assessments, which often require specialist technical input, are properly funded, supporting safe growth and responsible land use.

Planning assessment fees are now charged at Actual Cost to ensure safe, compliant development in Woorabinda.

Material Change of Use applications are now charged at Actual Cost, and assessment fees for planning applications are also charged at Actual Cost. Fees for reconfiguring a lot remain unchanged at \$115. These fees apply to people who want to build on their land or make significant changes to their property.

- * Material Change of Use now charged at actual cost \$200
- Reconfiguring a lot \$115/lot - no change
- Assessment fees charged at actual cost (external consultants and technical assessments are payable by the applicant).



GYMNASIUM FEES

Physical activity is important in maintaining good health and fees for the gym are aimed at encouraging Woorabinda residents to exercise regularly, with a focus on the older Elders in our community.

- ▲ Gym monthly membership fees increase to \$25/person
- ▼ Gym monthly membership fees Aged Elder - free
- Gym membership fee concession – no change



Support for community members

If you are unsure about how a fee applies to you, or if you would like to talk about payment options, please contact Council. We are here to help families, Elders and local businesses.

How to contact us:

Visit the Council Office:

112 Munns Drive, Woorabinda

Phone: (07) 4925 9800

Email: reception@woorabinda.qld.gov.au

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet. By working together, we can keep our services strong, and our community safe and supported for future generations.

