



SNOWY VALLEYS COUNCIL MEETING

LATE REPORTS

16 MAY 2019

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 2.00PM
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER BRIDGE STREET, TUMBARUMBA

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests at meetings

- Item from Bluet Local Government Handbook

[14.125] A Councillor or a Council Committee member who has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the council is concerned, and who is present at a meeting of the council or committee at which the matter is being considered, must disclose the nature of the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable. The person must not be present at, or in the sight of, the meeting either at any time during which the matter is being considered or discussed or at any time during which a vote is being taken on any question relating to the matter (s 451). A Councillor who has declared a pecuniary interest in a matter before the council but has withdrawn from the meeting because of that declaration is not counted in considering whether the meeting is quorate for that matter.

Disclosure of Political Donations and Gifts

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 places obligations on Councillors, staff, applicants and any person who makes a public submission, to disclose information relating to political donations and gifts during the environmental plan making or development assessment process.

Furthermore, for each planning decision made at a Council or Committee Meeting, the names of Councillors who supported the decision and those that oppose the decision must be recorded.

The fact that political donations or gifts have been made by applicants / proponents of a planning application should not affect whether an application is approved or refused. Political donations or gifts should not be relevant in making a determination. The matter should be determined on its merits. Nor do they provide grounds for challenging the determination of any applications.

For further information, visit www.planning.nsw.gov.au/donations

Public Recording of Meetings prohibited without Council authority

A person may use any recording device, including audio and visual recording and any device capable of recording speech, to record the proceedings of a meeting of a council or a committee of a council only by the resolution of the council or committee.

A person may, be expelled from a meeting of a council or a committee of a council or using or having used a tape recorder without consent.

Livestreaming of Meetings

Please be aware that this meeting will be recorded and livestreamed.

Photography

Flash photography is not permitted at a meeting of the Council or a Committee of the council without the consent of the General Manager.

Public Forum (extract from the Code of Meeting Practice)

Residents, ratepayers, applicants, consultants or other persons may request to address Council in relation to any matter which is listed for consideration on a Council Agenda. A person will be permitted to address a meeting of the Council, if the Council so resolves.

- a) A Public Forum may be scheduled prior to each Ordinary Council Meeting.
- b) There is a time limit of five (5) minutes per speaker. One extension of time (maximum 1 minute) may be granted at the discretion of Chairperson. The subject matter only is to be discussed.
- c) Council may limit the number of speakers to address agenda items if there are a large number wishing to speak.
- d) Public Forum should not be used to raise questions, routine matters or complaints. Such matters should be forwarded in writing to Council where they will be responded to by appropriate Council officers.
- e) All requests to speak at a Council meeting must be received by the General Manager (or his or her delegate) no later than 12pm on the day of the Meeting and are listed in order of receipt. Accepting requests received after this time will be at the discretion of the Chairperson.
- f) Speakers on agenda items will be called to address Council by the Chairperson and must provide their full name and suburb of residence before speaking, so that these details can be recorded in the minutes.
- g) Councillor questions to speakers are at the discretion of the Chairperson and for clarification purposes only. Speakers are under no obligation to answer any question put to them.
- h) Speakers will be made aware that their address will be recorded and will be streamed live over the internet. The commencement of their public address will be their agreement of such recording.
- i) The Mayor/Chairperson has the discretion to withdraw the privilege to speak where a speaker makes inappropriate or offensive comments about another person.
- j) Speakers may use and distribute information; photos, maps etc. if submitted to and approved by the General Manager (or his or her delegate) by 12pm on the day of the meeting.



Thursday 16 May 2019
Snowy Valleys Council Chambers
Bridge Street, Tumbarumba
2.00pm

LATE REPORTS

8. MAYORAL MINUTE

8.3 EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY CHANGES 2

1. CONFIDENTIAL

8. MAYOR MINUTE**8.3 EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY CHANGES**

REPORT AUTHOR: GENERAL MANAGER
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: MAYOR JAMES HAYES

Purpose

From 1 July 2019 the NSW Government plans to collect an additional \$160 million (in 2019/20) from NSW councils, communities and those paying insurance premiums to provide better workers' compensation coverage for volunteer and career firefighters who are diagnosed with one of 12 specific work-related cancers.

Councils were sent bills with a letter from Revenue NSW in May 2019, saying NSW council contributions will increase by \$19 million in 2019/20. The letter also foreshadowed increases in the following year, but not the amount.

RECOMMENDATION:**That Council notes:**

1. That last December, the NSW Government enacted laws to provide better workers compensation coverage for firefighters who are diagnosed with one of twelve specific work-related cancers
2. That in many areas of NSW, fire services are made up of elected and staff members of local government, and that local governments strongly support this expanded workers compensation scheme
3. That as a result of these changes, the State Government has decided to implement the new scheme by charging local governments an increased Emergency Services Levy, without consultation
4. That the expected increase in costs to local governments will be \$19m in the first year alone, and that there is little or no time to enshrine this charge in Council's 2019/2020 budgets
5. That Local Government NSW has long advocated for the Emergency Services Levy to be significantly modified to ensure it is transparent, equitable and accountable.
6. That Snowy Valleys Council supports Local Government NSW's calls for:
 - a. the NSW Government to cover the initial additional \$19m increase to local governments for the first year and
 - b. the NSW Government to work with NSW local governments to redesign the funding mechanism for the scheme to ensure fairness into the future.
 - c. requests that the General Manager liaise with Local Government NSW to provide information on:
 - i. The impact on council budgets and
 - ii. Council advocacy actions undertaken.

That the Mayor:

1. write to the NSW Premier and NSW Interim Opposition Leader, NSW Minister for Customer Services, NSW Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Local Government and Shadow Minister for Local Government, and local state member/s to:
 - a. call upon the NSW Government to fund the 12 months of this extra cost rather than requiring councils to find the funds at short notice when budgets have already been allocated
 - b. explain how this sudden increase will impact council services / the local community

- c. highlight that councils were not warned of the increased cost until May 2019, despite the new laws being passed in November 2018**
- d. explain that the poor planning and implementation of the increase is inconsistent with the Government's commitment to work in partnership with the sector**
- e. ask the Government to work with local governments to redesign the implementation of the scheme to ensure it is fairer for councils and communities into the future.**

That Council copy the above letter to Local Government NSW.

REPORT:

Snowy Valleys Council received an invoice from Revenue NSW for \$540k for its emergency services levy contribution. This is \$102k more than last year's levy (a 23.3%) increase.

This will mean council will need to find additional funds and/or cut planned initiatives or services.

Council supports career and volunteer firefighters in NSW – as it does all emergency services workers and volunteers. Indeed, many NSW council staff and councillors are volunteers.

We also support the Bill passed in November 2018 to address what was a workers' compensation shortfall.

However, the sector was at no point advised that it would be required to cover the cost via significant increases to the emergency services levy, or what this cost would be.

Proportional to council revenue, the extra \$102k Snowy Valleys Council is being asked to pay is a large amount and the impact of this unplanned cost will certainly be felt by the community. This represents approximately 1.1% percent of our rates income and the rate peg is set at 2.7%.

Local Government NSW is calling upon the NSW Government to fund the first 12 months of this extra cost and work with local governments to ensure the implementation of the funding mechanism is fairer into the future.

Attachments

- 1 Circular No 19-06 - Changes to Emergency Services funding arrangements [↓](#)
- 2 ESL Contribution Assessment Notice - Revenue NSW [↓](#)



Office of
Local Government

Circular to Councils

Circular Details	Circular No 19-06 / 08 May 2019 / A644248
Previous Circular	NA
Who should read this	Mayors/ Councillors / General Managers
Contact	Refer to <i>Where to go for further information</i>
Action required	Information

Changes to emergency services funding arrangements

What's new or changing

- The NSW Government has made changes to workers' compensation to provide better protection for volunteer and career firefighters affected by work-related cancers.
- The reforms reflect existing arrangements in other States and will ensure those who provide vital community services receive adequate medical care and support.
- This will result in an increase in the cost of providing emergency services across the State, which will be shared, as per the usual funding arrangements between insurance providers, the State Government and local councils.
- The local government share will be 11.7% of the cost of the emergency services levy.

What this will mean for your council

- The increase will be included in the annual emergency services levy paid by councils, commencing 1 July 2019.
- Councils will be able to pay the emergency services levy in quarterly instalments which will lessen the impact of the increase. The first quarterly instalment is not due until 30 September 2019 which provides more time for councils to review their budgets.

Key points

- The new emergency services levy amounts will vary between councils, depending on existing funding formulas.
- Councils should have already received a notice of assessment from Revenue NSW.

Where to go for further information

- Enquiries regarding the new legislative provisions should be directed to the State Insurance Regulatory Authority on 02 9289 1352.
- Enquiries in relation to emergency services levy notices of assessment should be directed to Revenue NSW on 1300 139 817 or ESL@revenue.nsw.gov.au.
- Information on the changes is also available on the [Revenue NSW website](#).



Tim Hurst
Chief Executive

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From: ESL@revenue.nsw.gov.au [mailto:ESL@revenue.nsw.gov.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 7 May 2019 1:39 PM
To: Reid, Tony
Subject: Emergency Services Levy Council Contribution



In November 2018, the NSW Parliament passed laws that made it easier for firefighters diagnosed with one of 12 specific work-related cancers to access workers compensation entitlements.

These new laws mean firefighters who have served in the Rural Fire Service or Fire and Rescue NSW, and have reached the specified minimum service requirements, will benefit from a presumption that their cancer diagnosis is due to their firefighting duties (i.e. a work-related illness).

These changes bring New South Wales into line with most other Australian jurisdictions, including the Commonwealth, which have introduced similar provisions for firefighters over the past eight years.

It is expected that significantly more firefighters diagnosed with cancer will now be eligible for workers compensation benefits, including loss of income payments, medical treatment expenses and death benefits for those with terminal conditions.

This year's Emergency Services Levy (ESL) contributions will also go towards funding vital new vehicles and equipment for Fire and Rescue NSW and the NSW Rural Fire Service, as well as ongoing operational costs for these agencies and the State Emergency Service.

These changes will result in an increase in the ESL contributions from 1 July 2019. Your notice of assessment reflects a total increase in the cost of funding our fire and emergency services of approximately \$160 million, of which around 75 per cent is due to the introduction of these new provisions for firefighters.

As you would be aware, 11.7 per cent of fire and emergency service funding needs is met by local councils. This means that total contributions from councils will rise by around \$19 million in 2019-20, of which \$14 million is to support firefighters with cancer. Further ESL increases are also anticipated in the following year to recover the additional costs incurred during 2018-19.

The attached Notice of Assessment describes arrangements for you to pay the ESL Council Contribution to Revenue NSW. If you have any queries about this assessment, please contact Revenue NSW on ESL@revenue.nsw.gov.au, or 1300 139 817.

Should your staff have any queries about the new legislative provisions, please contact the State Insurance Regulatory Authority on 02 9289 1352.

Information on the changes is also available on the Revenue NSW website.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Brady".

Stephen Brady
Chief Commissioner of State Revenue

Revenue NSW: ISO 9001 - Quality Certified | Department of Finance, Services & Innovation
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www.revenue.nsw.gov.au | ABN 77 456 270 638

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Council Contribution Assessment Notice

Contribution amounts in this notice have been assessed by the Emergency Services Minister for the 2019/20 Tax Year

Issue Date 07 May 2019
Enquiries 1300 139 816 (8.30 am - 5.00 pm)
Website www.revenue.nsw.gov.au

SNOWY VALLEYS CNCL
 76 CAPPER ST
 TUMUT NSW 2720

Council ID	144400300
Correspondence ID	1689228532

Assessment details

Total Council Annual Contribution	(Combined RFS, SES & F&RNSW)	Amount Due	\$ 539,879.34
Individual Contribution Assessment Totals			
NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE		Amount Due	\$ 457,915.00
NSW STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE		Amount Due	\$ 22,638.34
FIRE AND RESCUE NSW		Amount Due	\$ 59,326.00

Instalment details

Pay in four instalments	Payment Reference	Due Date	Amount Due
FIRST INSTALMENT	1689228466	30/09/2019	\$ 134,969.84
SECOND INSTALMENT	1689228482	31/12/2019	\$ 134,969.84
THIRD INSTALMENT	1689228490	31/03/2020	\$ 134,969.84
FOURTH INSTALMENT	1689228524	30/06/2020	\$ 134,969.82

You can find information on the current rate of interest at www.revenue.nsw.gov.au.

If your payment is not received by the due date, the instalment will be in arrears and collection activity will commence.

For information on how to set up a direct debit arrangement refer to the back of this notice.

For questions about the calculation of your assessment for the quarters specified, contact the relevant emergency services department. Their contact information is on the back of this notice.

Stephen R Brady
 Chief Commissioner of State Revenue

Contribution Assessment matters other than payment

Revenue NSW is responsible for:

- Issuing the Council Contributions Assessment and Instalment Notices
- Collecting Emergency Service Levy Council Contribution payments

For questions about the calculation of your assessment contact the relevant Emergency Services using the details below:



NSW Rural Fire Service

Contact your local NSW RFS District Manager

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au



NSW State Emergency Services

Contact the Finance Helpdesk

Email: finance@ses.nsw.gov.au

Or the SES Finance Manager

Phone: 02 4251 6576

www.ses.nsw.gov.au



Fire and Rescue NSW

Brian Lin – Director Financial Strategy

Email: brian.lin@fire.nsw.gov.au

Phone: 02 9265 2951

www.fire.nsw.gov.au

Important Information

Revenue NSW prefers Council Contribution payments by client initiated direct debit. Set up a new Direct Debit arrangement or edit an existing payment arrangement via the Revenue NSW webpage www.revenue.nsw.gov.au.

- Use your council specific login access the secure web portal service
- Nominate your account details prior to the quarterly instalment due date

If you are unable to pay your quarterly instalment, contact TaxDebt@revenue.nsw.gov.au.

Property Levies Team contact details



For more information and services visit www.revenue.nsw.gov.au



1300 139 817



Phone enquiries
8.30 am – 4.30 pm, Mon. to Fri.



ESL@revenue.nsw.gov.au

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Department of Finance, Services and Innovation