



LEETON
SHIRE COUNCIL

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

**22 MAY 2019
7.00PM**

TO BE HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
23-25 CHELMSFORD PLACE
LEETON NSW 2705

Authorised for release: Jackie Kruger General Manager

LEETON SHIRE COUNCIL

AGENDA

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

22 May, 2019

7.00PM

6. MAYORAL MINUTES

6.2 EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY INCREASE2

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

1. Notes that:
 - a) 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.
 - b) 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.
 - c) 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.
 - d) 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.
 - e) Local Government NSW has long advocated for the Emergency Services Levy to be significantly modified to ensure it is transparent, equitable and accountable.
 2. Supports Local Government NSW's calls for the:
 - a) NSW Government to cover the initial additional \$19m increase to local governments for the first year and
 - b) NSW Government to work with NSW local governments to redesign the funding mechanism for the scheme to ensure fairness into the future.
 3. Requests that the General Manager liaise with Local Government NSW to provide information on:
 - a) The impact on Council Budgets and
 - b) Council advocacy actions undertaken.
 4. Requests that the Mayor:
 - a) 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 local state member to:
 - i) Call upon the NSW Government to fund the 12 months of this extra cost rather than require Councils to find the funds at short notice when budgets have already been allocated.
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- ii) Explain how this sudden increase will impact Council services/the local community.
- iii) Highlight that Councils were not warned of the increased cost until May 2019, despite the new laws being passed in November 2018.
- iv) Explain that the poor planning and implementation of the increase is inconsistent with the Government's commitment to work in partnership with the sector.
- v) 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.

b) Copy the above letter to Local Government NSW.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.