



Date: 19 June 2019	Embargo: None
Pages: 1	Publication: All local media

State Government Budget - Solid Waste Levy Increase

The State Government Budget released yesterday incorporates a substantial and unexpected increase in the State Government's Solid Waste Levy, which will have a significant impact on the cost of waste management services provided to the community.

The Solid Waste Levy will increase from \$100/tonne to \$110/tonne on 1 July 2019 and to \$140 on 1 January 2020, presenting a 40% increase in the cost of providing critical waste management services to the community. This is on top of the Solid Waste Levy's 2000% increase since its inception in 2003. As a result, Council's contribution to the Solid Waste Levy will now increase to approximately \$715,000.

"It is ironic that the State Government and Minister Knoll just last week suggested Local Government should cap their rates in order to minimise the community's cost of living expenses, and then this week increase their Solid Waste Levy by an astronomical 40%. This decision, without consultation with Councils, will now cost the Gawler community an extra \$126,000" said Mayor Redman.

To make matters worse, only a fraction of the \$42.5 million that will be generated by this levy will be directed back to Local Government to create greater efficiencies in waste management practise, with the balance of funds being used to prop-up State Government departments.

"Council has been working hard to minimise rate increases, which is particularly challenging for a Council that has both pockets of aging infrastructure and significant growth. However, when the State Government unexpectedly hits you with a significant increase in costs for one particular service, it significantly inhibits Councils ability to minimise cost of living expenses for the community" said Mayor Redman.

The increase in the Solid Waste Levy will now mean that instead of a nil increase in the \$186 service charge from 2018/19, as foreshadowed in the draft 2019/20 Budget previously released for public consultation, residents will now need to absorb an increase of approximately \$13 per property, or a 7% increase in this charge.

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The media may wish to make contact with Mayor Karen Redman on 0421 839 359