
NARROMINE SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING BUSINESS PAPER – 12 JUNE 2019
MAYORAL MINUTE
BUSINESS WITHOUT NOTICE – URGENT MATTERS

1. EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY

This report is presented to Council as Business Without Notice – Urgent Matters.

Clause 241(3) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, states that business may be transacted at a meeting of Council even through due notice of the business has not been given to Councillors, if (a) a motion is passed to have the business transacted at the meeting, and (b) the business proposed to be brought forward is ruled by the Chairperson to be of great urgency.

Council received a Circular from the Office of Local Government on 8 May 2019 advising that there will be an increase in the annual emergency services levy paid by Council commencing 1 July 2019.

The Circular states that the NSW Government has made changes to workers' compensation to provide better protection for volunteer and career firefighters affected by work-related cancers. 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.

The Circular further states that Council will be able to pay the emergency service 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 time for Council to review their budgets.

Council has received its Contribution Assessment Notice from the NSW Government Revenue.

The total Council Annual Contribution (Combined RFS, SES and F&RNSW) is \$325,649.30. Last financial year was \$264,128.60. This represents a 24% increase.

It is noted that the rate peg for NSW Councils for the 2019/20 year is 2.7%.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Determine the matter is of great urgency and the business be transacted at the meeting.
2. Formally write to the Minister for Emergency Services and the LGNSW President requesting the removal of the 11.7% contribution by Councils.
3. Defer payment of the increase in the emergency services levy, pending response from the Minister of Emergency Services.

Craig Davies
Mayor