



MEDIA RELEASE

27 August 2019

Changes to Your Rates

With the adoption of the 2019/20 budget the Shire of Lake Grace is changing the way rates are levied in the district to improve fairness, equitability and efficiency.

We are removing the Sport & Recreation specified area rate classifications and raising the equivalent rate revenue through the general rate. This gives us the fairest, most equitable, transparent and efficient method of rate levying available under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

The current purpose of the specified area rating cannot be considered a specific work, service or facility, given a core function of local government is to provide facilities for the use and benefit of the public. Halls, swimming pools, libraries, cultural facilities and sporting facilities are examples of facilities which local government has a responsibility to deliver and are provided for the benefit of all residents of the district.

To do this, the specified area rates have been removed and the equivalent amount has been raised as a general or minimum rate. This then spreads the rate burden evenly across the district. This has ultimately resulted in an increase in rates for ratepayers not currently paying or paying a low specified area rate. To ease the burden of this transition Council has endorsed a zero increase in the total rates levied for 2019/20.

ENDS

FOR MEDIA COMMENTS PLEASE CONTACT:

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