



# Media Release

21 August 2019

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## **GOVERNMENT BACKDOWN ON EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY**

At the May 2019 Ordinary Meeting, Council considered a report relating to the significant increase to the 2019/20 Emergency Services Levy with invoices issuing from Revenue NSW with no consultation with Councils across NSW.

For Tenterfield, this was an increase of 24% or \$69,783 above the previous year's contribution and was attributed to legislative changes made in November 2018 regarding workers compensation entitlements for emergency service workers (NSW Fire Service, Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Services).

At the meeting it was resolved to work with NSW Councils advocate, Local Government NSW, and write to the Premier and various Ministers stating the impact this unbudgeted impost would have on Council services and the local community, especially in light of the current drought conditions.

The matter was also raised by the NSW Country Mayors' Association of which Mayor Petty is a member.

"This was a joke", said Mayor Peter Petty. "With no consultation, the State Government sends invoices for payment out to Councils which would have a huge impact on their already allocated budgets. The NSW Government has always assured the local government sector that it would work with them and consult in any areas of difficulty, and then this happens," he added.

As a result of lobbying by Local Government NSW, the Country Mayors and Local Members across the State, the Government has now given Councils a one-year reprieve from paying the hefty increases which will allow for budgets to be developed in the coming years.

**ENDS**