

3.2 2020/2021 FEES AND CHARGES

(SW: File No.)

Responsible Officer: Danny Wain, Chief Financial Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

Adopts the Schedule of Fees & Charges, as detailed in the attachment to this report, to be effective from 1 July 2020 (except as otherwise indicated), to be reviewed as part of Council's adoption of the 2020/21 Budget.

BACKGROUND

The State Government announced special provision for Councils to utilise an extension to adopt their budget by the 31 August instead of the legislated 30 June. Given all of the uncertainty in the current environment, Council has decided to take advantage of this extension and adopt our budget by 31 August. However Council will require the fees and charges to be in place as at 1 July to ensure services can operate with certainty.

Given the financial impacts of COVID-19 on the community, Council has also determined to freeze all of the fees and charges, holding them at 2019/20 levels with a few exceptions. The State Government recently announced that all statutory fees and charges would remain static as well.

DISCUSSION

Fees and charges generally fall into one of the following categories:

- Statutory/Non-Discretionary – Fee is set under legislation and Council is bound to charge the prescribed fee;
- Statutory/Discretionary – Fee is prescribed under legislation but Council has discretion over the level of fee charged; and
- Non-Statutory/Discretionary – Fee is not determined by legislation and can be increased at Council's discretion.

All fees and charges will remain at 2019/20 levels except for;

- *Engineering:* Introduction of new fees for permits and plan checking have been introduced for 2020/21 and existing fees have also been increased to keep in line with competitive rates. These have also been benchmarked against the industry standards. The fees recommended are in accordance with Local Law No.3.
- *Waste Transfer Station:* The fee increase is predominantly due to the State Government decision to increase the Environmental Protection

Levy (EPA) by \$20, taking the levy from \$65.90 to \$85.90 from 1 January 2021. Fees at the waste transfer station have been increased to recover operational costs.

- *Building:* It is recommended that building permits have a 15% increase in fees for 2020/21 to ensure that Council remains competitive in the open market.
- *Local Laws:* It is suggested that a 10% increase, to offset pound contract fee increases, be applied to the animal pound release fee taking the fee to \$202.50 in 2020/21.

CONSULTATION

The fees and charges schedule will be available during the public consultation period surrounding the Proposed 2020/21 Annual Budget and the community will have the opportunity to provide feedback.

CONCLUSION

Following consideration of this report it is recommended that Council adopt the fees and charges from 1 July and allow for amendments by exception post consultation period and adoption of the 2020/21 Annual Budget.