



ATTENTION	<b>All wardens and parish treasurers of parishes that hold real property in New South Wales</b>		
SUBJECT	<b>Notification of changes to the way fire and emergency services in NSW are funded</b>		
DATE	<b>25 May 2017</b>		
SDS CONTACT	<b>Greg Ellem</b>	<a href="mailto:gxe@sydney.anglican.asn.au">gxe@sydney.anglican.asn.au</a>	<b>☎ 9265 1546</b>

<b>KEY POINTS</b>
<p>Fire and emergency services in NSW are currently funded by way of a charge that applies to certain insurance policies.</p> <p>From 1 July 2017 the NSW Government has announced that funding of fire and emergency services in NSW will no longer occur via insurance premiums. Instead, a levy will be charged to landowners based on a factor of the land value and will be applied in conjunction with local government council rates.</p> <p>From 1 July 2017 local council rate notices that issue to parishes in respect solely to the cost of garbage collection will also incorporate a charge for fire and emergency services. Like the cost of garbage disposal services, this charge will be an expense for the parish to meet each quarter.</p> <p>While the NSW Government is suggesting that this is a “fairer system for funding”, our modelling suggests that most parishes will be worse off than present and the ACPT will be approaching the government with a request for a review of the FESL insofar as it will relate to real property owned by the church community.</p>

Fire and emergency services in NSW are currently funded by way of a charge that is added to the premium payable on industrial special risk and contract works insurance policies that the ACPT negotiates on behalf of parishes in accordance with the Church Insurances Program.

From 1 July 2017 the NSW Government has announced that funding of fire and emergency services in NSW will no longer occur via insurance premiums. Instead the Government will be applying a levy on every land owner in NSW that will be calculated as a factor of the NSW Valuer General's land valuation and will be applied in conjunction with local government council rates.

The charge that has applied to property held by the ACPT on behalf of parishes in 2017, as calculated by the insurance companies, has been in the order of \$280,000 and has been factored into the insurance component of the PCR charge. The ACPT Board is currently investigating the optimal way of adjusting the \$140,000 that is included in the insurance component of the PCR for the remainder of the year.

Notwithstanding that parishes are currently exempt from paying council rates, local council rate notices still issue to parishes in respect to garbage disposal services. From 1 July 2017 those local council rate notices will also incorporate a charge for fire and emergency services. This charge will be known as the Fire and Emergency Services Levy (FESL) and will need to be factored into parish budgets and be paid as the local council rate notices issue. The NSW Government has been progressively notifying land owners over the past few months of the FESL and as those letters have been received by ACPT, they have been forwarded parishes.

The FESL is calculated upon the land value which is determined by the NSW Valuer General. Those notices issue periodically either directly to the parish or via the ACPT in which case the notices on forwarded to the parish. If you do not have your current Notice of Valuation you can visit the website to obtain your current land value which you will need to use the FESL calculator - [http://www.valuergeneral.nsw.gov.au/land\\_values/land\\_value\\_search](http://www.valuergeneral.nsw.gov.au/land_values/land_value_search)

If you disagree with the classification of your property, you can request a review by contacting your local council.

The majority of parish property falls under Public Benefit land.

Information on how to calculate the FESL can be found via the link – <http://fesl.nsw.gov.au/home>

While the NSW Government is suggesting that this is a “fairer system for funding”, our modelling suggests that most parishes will be worse off than present.

The ACPT Board considers that the government has given inadequate thought to the impact of this changed methodology on the not for profit sector generally, and the church community in particular. The Board is taking steps to approach the NSW Government to reconsider the decision to apply a FESL in the light of the onerous impact that the levy will have on parishes.

If you require any further clarification about this matter please feel free to contact Parish Property Services on (02) 9265 1578.

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