



# Shire of Mt Marshall

— THE SANDALWOOD SHIRE —

18 June 2018

## PUBLIC NOTICE PROPOSED LOCAL LAW Health Local Law 2018

At the ordinary meeting of Council on 15 May 2018 Council resolved to give public notice of its intention to make the Shire of Mt Marshall Health Local Law 2018.

The purpose and effect of the law is to effect corrections in the Shire of Mt Marshall Health Local Law 2014 as required by the joint Standing Committee on Delegated legislation.

A copy of the proposed law may be inspected at or obtained from the Shire of Mt Marshall Administration Centre in Monger St Bencubbin between the hours of 9.00am and 4.00pm Monday to Friday until 2 July 2018.

Written submissions about the proposed local law may be made to the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Mt Marshall, PO Box 20 Bencubbin WA 6477. Submissions will be received up to and including Monday 2 July 2018 at 4.00pm.

John Nuttall  
Chief Executive Officer

### CALCULATION OF YOUR RATES

As the end of the financial year nears, rate rises and how much they could rise very much become a topic across local government areas. The President of the West Australian Local Government Association, Mrs Lynne Craigie recently wrote the column on the following page for The West Australian newspaper regarding the ever increasing pressure Local Governments face to keep rate rises to an amount that is considered acceptable by the Shire's ratepayers.



### DIARY DATES

#### 26 June 2018

Recycling Collection

#### 17 July 2018

Ordinary Meeting of Council @  
3:00pm in Council Chambers,  
Monger St, Bencubbin

### COUNCILLORS

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# Rusted-on bias in unjust criticism of Council rates rises



COUNCILLOR  
LYNNE CRAIGIE  
PRESIDENT  
WALGA

Local Governments often bear the brunt of long-held misconceptions and never more so than around their annual rates increases.

Each year many including government, the media and ratepayers look closely at the final figure of a Councils' rates increase and often pass judgement on it using inappropriate yardsticks such as the Consumer Price Index.

A few weeks back, households awoke to a headline that Councils were being told to "rein in rate increases".

It would have been a fair demand to make but for the fact that Council rate increases were admirably low and far less than other government charges.

Accompanying the article was a table that listed the rate rises of 12 metropolitan Local Governments – the highest of which was 4% and the lowest under 1% - the average was slightly less than 2.5%.

In making the claim by the Opposition to rein in rates – the Minister was commendably more circumspect – the article ignorantly compared rate rises to inflation with CPI of 1.5%.

Furthermore, the article didn't mention a more relevant context – comparing Council rates increases to other charges by government that also directly affect households.

That is, the average 2.5% Council rate rise wasn't considered in light of the average 7% increase to electricity, 5.5% for water; 5.8% for car registration or 3.7% for motor licences.

Ironically the largest of all State Government increases this year is the 10% rise for the Emergency Services Levy that is collected via Council rate notices but does not go to Local Government.

Indeed, the State Government's own statements put the increased costs to households from the recent budget at 4.8%, which is less than the 6% averaged over the past decade.

Those numbers put the average 2.5% rise in Council rates in a much fairer context, especially when you consider that increases to utility charges such as electricity will contribute to the Councils' costs.

But back to instead using inflation, or the CPI as a comparison. Whilst it may seem on the surface to be a fair comparison, it isn't. It is instead an argument that is easily understood but fatally flawed.

The factors that contribute to cost increases to Local Government, and as a consequence rates, are far more complex than comparing a cost-of-living basket of goods and services.

It is the same as saying that the price of bananas should only go up by CPI and not as a consequence of a myriad of factors including wages, cost of production and even climate.

It is hoped that ratepayers will recognise that an average Council rate rise of 2.5% is a positive achievement in an environment of much greater increases to other household charges.

Despite facing ongoing biases and misconceptions, Councils persevere in their efforts to meet community aspirations specific to their own context and for that, they are to be commended.



WALGA