



The Hon Ray Williams MP

Member for Castle Hill

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier and Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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GOVERNMENT ASSISTS THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL PAY EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY INCREASE

The NSW Government will fund the increase in the emergency services levy for The Hills Shire Council to meet the cost of new workers' compensation for firefighters, Member for Castle Hill Ray Williams MP said today.

Mr Williams said The Hills Shire Council would receive \$283,515 to assist them to pay the increase in the emergency services levy this financial year to help support firefighters with cancer.

"The Government acknowledges that this additional cost presented some challenges for our local council/s," he said.

"We also acknowledge that our local council had already set its 2019-20 Budget before the invoices for the increased emergency services levy were issued and this has caused some angst.

"That's why the Government will provide council \$283,515 this financial year to alleviate the immediate pressure on our local council.

"I am pleased that The Hills Shire Council is receiving this financial contribution which will help keep its 2019-20 Budget in check."

Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock said the Government would provide \$13.6 million to the State's 128 councils to assist pay the increase in the emergency services levy to help fund workers' compensation for firefighters.

"Our emergency services have long been funded through a cost sharing arrangement between insurers, councils and the Government and it's important that this continues to ensure we look after the health and wellbeing of our frontline firefighters," Mrs Hancock said.

"We have listened to the concerns of local councils and will continue to consult with them to better manage the impacts of the emergency services levy especially on their annual budgeting cycles.

"It is clear that both State and local governments acknowledge the importance of providing support for those emergency services workers who have given so much to protect communities and I look forward to continuing to work with local councils to ensure this is the case."

ENDS

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