

EMERGENCY SERVICES FUNDING REFORM

Organisation: Shellharbour City Council

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15 June 2026

Committee Chair
Legislative Assembly Select Committee
on Emergency Services Funding Reform
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

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**Shellharbour City Council Submission
on the NSW emergency services funding reform replacement levy model options**

This submission has been prepared by Council staff (Council) and does not represent a formal policy position of Shellharbour City Council, nor has it been referred to the elected Council. Council welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the inquiry into emergency services funding reform and notes the importance of addressing ongoing cost-shifting and financial sustainability pressures across the local government sector.

Council acknowledges the NSW Government's intent to reform the Emergency Services Levy to improve cost recovery, equity, efficiency, simplicity and sustainability by shifting funding away from an insurance-based levy to a property-based levy. Council supports a replacement levy aligned with capacity to pay, placing a lower burden on properties with lower land values.

Council is firmly of the opinion that the levy should be centrally administered and collected by Revenue NSW. As a state-imposed charge funding state emergency service agencies, collection through a single, established state revenue authority would provide a more efficient and consistent approach than administration across 128 individual councils. Revenue NSW already has access to relevant valuation data and established systems for statewide land tax collection.

Centralised collection would avoid imposing additional administrative and financial burden on councils, including billing, debt recovery, and managing ratepayer enquiries, particularly where the levy is linked to land values determined by the NSW Valuer General which may generate objections outside councils' control. It would further improve transparency to the community by clearly distinguishing between council rates and state-imposed charges and provide clearer accountability for the levy.

Council supports the levy design parameter to provide a pensioner discount on the Emergency Services Levy. The NSW Government pensioner subsidy for council rates has remained unchanged since the introduction of the Local Government Act 1993 and has not kept pace with inflation or rising service costs. A concession applied to the Emergency Services Levy will provide additional financial support to pensioners and vulnerable members of the community.

Shellharbour City Council welcomes the opportunity to discuss these matters further. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED]
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Yours sincerely



Wayde Peterson
Chief Executive Officer