



19 July 2019

Dr Matthew Butlin
Chair and Chief Executive
South Australian Productivity Commission
GPO Box 2343
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Email: sapc@sa.gov.au

Dear Dr Butlin

Re: Uniform Reporting of Rate Increases

On behalf of the City of Mitcham, I write to you to request a mandated format for the disclosure of proposed rate increases for South Australian councils.

There is currently no consistency or clarity in relation to council rate rises resulting in misleading comparisons between different councils without the appropriate context, which in turn contributes to the complaints and criticisms from the community.

A consistent and clear approach to articulating and communicating rate increases would provide comparability between councils and improve understanding in the community in relation to budget and rate increase preparation. It would also lead to healthy discussion, understanding and accountability between councils and their communities in relation to determining and justifying proposed rate increases.

Council requests that as a minimum the mandated format be such that it includes, as separate items, the following components of a proposed rate increase:

- The cost of continuing to provide existing services and service levels;
- The cost of any proposed new services and service enhancements;
- The cost of any infrastructure backlog being addressed; and
- The impact of changes to the operating result from the previous year.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and I welcome any questions or points of clarification that you may have.

Yours sincerely

Dr Heather Holmes-Ross
MAYOR

cc Mr Matt Pinnegar, Chief Executive Officer, Local Government Association of South Australia

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