

## MEDIA RELEASE

August 29, 2018

### **Rate notices are on the way**

Gladstone Regional Council's annual rates notices will arrive in property owners' letterboxes from mid next week.

What to expect:

- 42 per cent of properties experiencing a rate reduction or no increase
- 28 per cent of properties experiencing a rate increase of one to five per cent
- 30 per cent of properties' rates increasing six to 10 per cent.

Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett said that while individual properties would vary the average general rates increase across all properties was only 1.89 per cent, in line with the Local Government Cost Price Index (LGCPI), a measure of inflation.

Councillor Burnett added that water access charge increases would be no more than the 1.89 per cent LGCPI rate.

"The sewerage charge is increasing by up to five per cent to fund significant, needed upgrades to our region's sewerage network," he said.

Cr Burnett said national increases to recycling costs, after China's decision to no longer accept Australia's recyclable waste, had largely led to Council's garbage collection charge increasing by \$30.50 per year.

"Recycling is very important and to help us mitigate its costs, we're reviewing our waste and recycling processes, investigating expanding our waste to energy projects, and developing a Towards Zero Waste Strategy for our region," he said.

Cr Burnett reminded ratepayers that early payment discounts were available.

"If you pay by October 10 you'll receive a 10 per cent discount and, if you miss this timeframe, you can still receive a five per cent discount if you pay by November 9," he said.

Cr Burnett said payment plans were available to ratepayers who wanted to manage their rates payments by spreading them out across a longer period, but said it was important to set this up prior to rate notices' due date of November 9.

"Subsidies of up to \$533.32 per year are also available for eligible pensioners," he said.

More information about rates is available on Council's website [www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/rates](http://www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/rates). Information about the projects and initiatives rates and other revenue will support this financial year is available at [www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/budget](http://www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/budget)

**MEDIA INFORMATION:** For further information contact Council's Communications and Marketing Section on 4977 6803 or [media@gladstone.qld.gov.au](mailto:media@gladstone.qld.gov.au)

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