



Premier of Western Australia

Mayor Tracey Roberts JP
President
Western Australian Local Government Association
PO Box 1544
WEST PERTH WA 6872

Dear Mayor ^{Tracey} Roberts

COVID - 19

Western Australia has joined forces with other States and the Commonwealth as part of a national response to combat the spread of COVID-19 across our community.

Last week I released the updated Western Australian Pandemic Plan (Plan) in direct response to the potential impacts of COVID-19.

A Public Health Emergency and a State of Emergency for Western Australia has now been declared. Also, restrictions have been placed on gatherings of over 500 people, people arriving from overseas are required to self-isolate for 14 days and a ban has been placed on cruise ship arrivals for 30 days.

As the situation develops other measures will have to be taken.

During this period local governments and local government leaders will have an important role to play, not only fulfilling responsibilities under the Plan, but also providing leadership in their communities to help people through this difficult time.

Many of the restrictions being put into place will have economic and financial implications for businesses and families.

To ease the financial pressures on families, the State Government yesterday took the decision to freeze all Household Tariffs, Fees and charges in 2020-21.

Local government can also play a significant role to relieve pressure on families and businesses. Local government rates form a significant part of family and business expenses. Rate relief will further assist with these pressures.

I am requesting that you seek your members support and action to unilaterally freeze all Local Government Household Rates, Fees and Charges in 2020-21.

Combined, these measures will provide relief to families and business from the impacts of the spread of COVID-19.

Yours sincerely

**HON MARK MCGOWAN MLA
PREMIER**

17 MAR 2020

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